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The Maine

Ornithological Society.



The AMERICAN BIRD MAGAZINE.

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JOHN MERTON SWAIN.

THE JOURNAL OF *The Maine Ornithological Society.*

A Quarterly Journal of Maine Ornithology.

"BIRD PROTECTION, BIRD STUDY, THE SPREAD OF THE KNOWLEDGE THUS
GAINED, THESE ARE OUR OBJECTS."

VOL. VI.

FAIRFIELD, MAINE, JANUARY, 1904.

NUMBER 1

The Maine Ornithological Society.

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|---|----------------|
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Ninth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1904, at Bangor, Maine.

Entered as second class mail matter at Fairfield, Me.

Editorial Chat.

We have received notice from Messrs. Dana, Estes & Co. of the completion of the fifth revised edition of Dr. Elliott Coues' "Key to North American Birds" which will be ready

for distribution on Dec. 15. This work is published in two volumes. The publisher's price is: Cloth octavo ten dollars. This is the most complete work on birds that has ever been written.

Another year has glided swiftly by and with this issue we begin Vol. VI. A very pleasant and profitable meeting was held at Gardiner and the outlook is brighter for another year than any year previous. We have a better supply of papers on hand from the annual meeting than we had last year, and with the addition of an associate editor, we believe we have good reasons to anticipate a marked improvement in Vol VI.

Howard McAdam, a taxidermist of Calais, writes me that a swan was shot at Mud lake, near Crawford lake, Me., Sept. 10, 1903, by Chas. S. Hunnewell of Alexandria, Me. Mr. McAdam mounted the bird and says he does not think it a captive bird as it bore no marks of captivity; that he could not determine the variety, but thinks it a trumpeter. Its measurements were, length, 3 feet and 11.75 inches; wing, 17.75 inches; extent, 5 feet, and 9 inches. He mentions that this bird is now for sale.

Large flocks of pine grosbeaks were

seen earlier in the winter. We had reports of them from many parts of the state. We observed them in Somerset county on Nov. 10. Mr. E. L. Haley saw them at Rangeley on Nov. 8. We have seen them on several of our trips during the last few weeks. Large flocks of snowflakes have also been reported. While on a carriage drive on Saturday, Nov. 22, we saw the largest flock that it was ever our privilege to see. A flock of pine siskins were seen in Athens, Somerset county, and a flock of redpolls were seen in Cornville in the same county.

As the Journal goes to press it leans with great regret that the fire in Augusta on the morning of Jan. 7th seriously damaged the fine ornithological collection of our associate editor, Frank T. Noble, which was kept in his private office, next door to Meonian hall. The entire contents of the offices on the second floor were hastily removed when it seemed certain this structure would also be destroyed, with the result that the beautiful collection of eggs of New England birds, one of the finest in the state, is in a sad condition, being in a hopeless jumble and many badly broken. The beautiful collection of bird skins which has been so often admired by many of our readers was also badly shaken up, the contents of each cabinet being ruthlessly jammed into the corners of the drawers. Just how they are coming out has not been fully ascertained. The collection was housed in large oak cabinets especially designed by Mr. Noble for their reception and probably no collection of the kind, great or small, was ever made or arranged with greater care. The owner will certainly have the sympathy not only of his many friends, but of all ornithologists here and elsewhere.

Mr. Frank T. Noble, our associate, is well known to our working members as an enthusiastic field ornithologist, having had many years experience in the study of birds. We trust that our members will remember that the editors cannot alone make the Journal a continued success. We hope to continue the migration reports, as made by the several members of our society, in this volume. Mr. Norton's paper on the finches will be completed in this volume and will prove of great value to all working ornithologists, whether members or subscribers. In the April number will be begun a series of papers on "The Warblers Found in Maine." These papers when completed will be of much value, as the four active members who have this work in charge, have done a large amount of work with this most interesting family. Capt. Spinney has had excellent opportunity to record the arrival and departure of these birds, as well as to note the abundance or scarcity of them as they come and go in the spring and fall. We shall have access to our late fellow worker's, Clarence H. Morrell's, notes and data, which will be of great value, as he made considerable study of the warblers, and has some very interesting notes and records, which in connection with Prof. Knights' and our own experiences on such species as yellow palm and Wilson's blackcap, will be sought after with much interest by all working students of birds, as well as be of interest to those of our members and readers, who love the study of this family from an aesthetic standpoint. Prof. Stanton's most interesting paper, "Man's Relation to the Lower Animals," will appear in this volume and cannot fail to interest all, coming as it does, from one of the greatest ornithologists of his time, who has made a deep, searching study of all animate

creation. With the above interesting material, together with numerous other papers of interest, and with the work a little better divided, and other improvements which we have in mind, we shall endeavor to give our readers a volume of much greater value than the previous year.

NOTES ON THE FINCHES FOUND IN MAINE.

By Arthur H. Norton.

(Continued from Vol 5, p 52.)

Passer domesticus (Linn). English Sparrow.

This introduced species is an abundant resident of the cities and larger villages throughout the state, and by means of railroads and stage lines it has to some extent penetrated to the wilderness, making its abode at the settlers' premises.

An interesting case of a pair having built a nest in a freight car, and accompanying it on its trip from some western point, to Portland, Maine, was given by Mr. J. Merton Swain in the Maine Sportsman. (Me. Sportsman, June 1897, p. 6.)

As Maine farmers are not to an important extent devoted to grain culture, it seems that this bird of doubtful value should not be despised, on account of its weed destroying habits. Like all of its family it is to some degree insectivorous, destroying many insects of neutral value, and some harmful ones, including grasshoppers, and caterpillars of *Vanessa antiopa*. It is an interesting and significant fact that while our native finches have not yet learned to open the seeding heads of the introduced dandelion, *Taraxacum taraxacum* with ease, the English Sparrow is not only an expert in opening the heads but in some quarters, at least, has a keen appetite for the seed. A few of our native species also relish these seeds, and glean after their foreign relatives, or labor at a disadvantage for themselves.

This matter was carefully treated by Mr. Sylvester D. Judd in 1898, in the Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, pages 223-224.

*Judd. Birds as Weed Destroyers.

The article* was also reprinted and should be read by all students interested in the economic value of birds.

Loxia curvirostra minor (Brehm.) American or Red Crossbill.

While this bird is a permanent resident of the state, it is in many localities very irregular in its occurrence, and perhaps nowhere to be found at all seasons.

In general it may be said to be of common occurrence throughout the state, more so than the next, but less extensively gregarious in its movements in the southern part of Maine.

Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell in 1880 in an important paper on the breeding of this bird quoted Mr. G. A. Boardman as informing him that "The nest has been found in thick trees, also hard wood trees, and in holes." Further he quotes from the same authority that it "Is a very common breeding bird all through the forests of Northern Maine from January to July, but not every year." Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cb. v, pp 9-10.

New data has been accumulated sufficient to show that its season of reproduction extends into August, while there seems to be no record of its breeding between August and January following.

On August 21, 1897, I found a few pairs on Littlejohn's Island, Casco Bay, which seemed to be engaged in breeding duties, and they certainly were in physical condition to do so. It probably breeds, with more or less frequency from this point easterly along the coast, as its occurrence especially upon the islands has been detected too often in summer to be regarded as sporadic. Specimens collected at Allens Island, one of the St. George Islands, St. George, Maine, June 21, 26, 1895, seemed nearly ready to breed. It is rather common in the scrub pine groves at Pine Point and Scarborough Beach, often remaining to the last of April or early May.

The sudden appearance of flocks of considerable size in summer in southern Maine is a phenomena well known to bird observers.

The name of Screwbill applied to it in some parts of the lumber regions is probably shared by the next species.

Loxia leucoptera. (Gmel.) White-winged Crossbill, Spruce bird.

Like the last this bird occurs irreg-

ularly throughout the state, but unlike that species it seems to have no summer records from southern Maine. In this section, however, it appears at intervals in great abundance.

At Scarborough, Nov. 1882, they were "Unusually numerous with the last." [*Loria curvirostra minor*.] (Brown Bull. Nutt Orn., Cb. VIII, p 47.)

They appeared again in 1889, being first observed on Jan. 1, at Westbrook, and were rather numerous until March 11. Though careful watch was kept at the same station no more were seen until Jan. 13, 1900, when they were found in abundance and remained until March 10.

At the time of this last appearance the birds were first seen in large flocks, feeding in hemlock trees, and spruces also whenever they could be found.

As early as Jan. 16 they had become much scattered, and were seen flying in all directions, but no flocks could be found; their bodily condition was still excellent. By January 27 they had resorted to the ground and weed patches; they were now considerably reduced in flesh. After this observation a few could be regularly found feeding upon the alder seeds. *Abus incana*.

From this time to the date of their last observation they were commonly feeding upon the ground and acted as though famishing.

None of the birds collected here were in condition to breed, a fact in marked contrast to specimens taken on islands of the northwest shores of Jericho Bay, some of which were ready to breed in early spring. There the spruce is the dominating feature of plant life. Indeed the spruce belt seems to be more essential to the tastes of this bird than to any of its allies or associates. In feeding in their favorite conifers their movements are very parrot like, a fact pointed out by Nuttall in mentioning certain caged specimens.

During this visitation one or a pair was often seen in larch and arbor vitae trees by our windows where their feeding habits could be easily watched. When the small cones broke from their supporting branch, under the force of the birds' operations, they were seized in its claws

and held while the bird searched between the scales for seeds and even insect matter; when satisfied the cone was dropped. Where a flock is feeding the patter of falling cones is audible for a short distance, and they often bear mute testimony to the scene of a recent feast as they lie thick under the trees. A small amount of insect matter was found in some of the stomachs collected in January.

Acanthis hornemannii erilipes. (Coen.)
Hoary Redpoll.

Rare winter visitant, probably of occasional occurrence with other Redpolls and with Siskins.

Mr. Knight in "Birds of Maine," recognized but one authentic Maine record, that of a specimen contained in the collection of the writer: this was taken at Westbrook, Me., Jan. 26, 1896. (Norton Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist. II p, and Knight's "Birds of Maine," p. 92.

While this probably is the *Egythius canescens* of several lists and papers, Mr. Knight's course in eliminating all unsupported citations seems highly commendatory, the more so since the synonymy of this group was so much confused at the time these references were made.

Acanthis linaria. (Linn) Common or Lesser Redpoll.

An abundant irregular winter visitant, more rarely winter resident, occasionally bringing with it its distinguished relatives from the borders of the Arctic circle.

Some seasons it has been known to arrive early in November and remain until late April, and one instance of its occurrence as late as May 19, 1875, is on record. (Brown, Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist. II p 12.) Other years it delays its coming until January or even March, in the one instance due to a wandering of local bands for food supply, in the other being a migration northward from some more southern point. Early in the fall or winter it may associate freely with Siskins, both feeding in flocks of same size upon the seeds of alders and gray birches. Toward spring, no doubt owing to the exhaustion of this supply through the several agencies, the birds resort more constantly to weed patches and bare ground, being especially partial to old broken ground. At this season

they usually congregate in larger flocks than earlier, and with the advance of the season like other boreal finches they become very restless and their flights are likely to have a northerly trend.

During the cold weather of mid-winter they often settle in a good sized grove of alders or birches where they remain until the seeds become exhausted when they seek new quarters. In feeding here many of their movements among the twigs resemble those of chickadees, flitting about and hanging upside down as they probe between the scales of the cone, a use to which their small, pointed beaks are beautifully adapted. As they move about they scatter much seed to the ground and with the economy born of arctic dearth, they will descend to the snow and glean the fruit from its surface. The diet is occasionally varied by visits to spruce or hemlock trees, or more often to the larch.

Acanthis linaria holballii (Brehm.)
Holbols Redpoll.

Probably a casual winter visitor rather than an accidental straggler. But two Maine examples are now known, one of which has been recorded: it was captured by Hon. James C. Mead at North Bridgton, Me., Nov. 25, 1875. (Mead, Maine Sportsmen, April 1897, p. 6.) The specimen which is intermediate* with *Acanthis linaria* is in the collection of Mr. O. W. Knight. (Knight, Bds. of Me., p. 93.)

The unrecorded specimen is a female, taken in Gorham, Me., Feb. 3, 1903, and is preserved in the collection of the writer. In this specimen the characteristically long, pointed bill, suggesting that attenuated organ in the Siskin, was so evident that it attracted attention on the spot, even without another bird for comparison. The specimen shows the following measurements: Bill below nostril, 9.05 m m; wing, 72; tail, 54 m m. It occurred in an alder thicket with a small flock of common Redpolls.

Acanthis linaria rostrata. (Coues.)
Greater Redpoll.

A winter visitor of frequent occurrence and sometimes locally at least common.

Its first detection in Maine perhaps

was at Westbrook where it was common from Jan. 26 to Feb. 27, 1896. (Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist. II p. 104.) Upon finding the bird other collectors were informed and asked to watch for it, with the result that Mr. Fred Rackliff secured a female at Spruce Head, Maine, on February 17, 1896. (Rackliff in personal Epist., Feb. 24, 1896, and Knight, Bds. of Me., p. 93.) The following December, Prof. Wm. L. Powers, to whom is due the credit of giving the first published record from the state secured a specimen at Gardiner on Dec. 30, 1896. (Powers, Maine Sportsman, Feb., 1897, p. 9, also Auk, XIV, 219.)

Another specimen which can easily be referred to this form was taken at Westbrook on December 12, 1903. In habits it does not seem to differ from *Acanthis linaria* with which it freely associates. It may, however, prove to be a little more partial to coniferous fare, as several of those collected in 1896 had their bills coated with pitch, and the birds often resorted to the hemlock trees to feed. They also resorted to the ground to glean as did *A. linaria*.

The note contributed by George Ord in his edition of Wilson's American Ornithology, based upon a flight of Redpolls to Philadelphia in the winter of 1813-14, where he describes "One male considerably larger than the rest" and having "The crown spot of a darker hue" is interesting, probably affording the first description of the present subspecies, and at the same time the southernmost known extent of its winter range. His description indicates a young male, and indeed most of the males taken at Westbrook are in the first winter plumage.

(To be continued)

LOST IN A FLORIDA SWAMP.

JAMES CARROL MEAD.

(Read at the 8th annual meeting of the "Maine Ornithological Society at Gardiner, Nov. 29, 1903.)

"If you will go ashore and buy the Christmas presents, Cad, I will look out for the boat and things until you get back." The speaker was a well known Maine educator, the writer was the person spoken to and the time was Christmas eve, 1880. I cannot give you the exact latitude and

*See Mead as cited above.

longitude of the spot where the remark was made for as a veteran hunter and riverman afterwards told us: "Hit's right likely that neither injun or white man ever saw the place before." We named it the Devil's Lagoon and it lies somewhere amid the cane brake prairies of the upper St. Johns River in Southern Florida. The air was not fragrant with Christmas cheer at the hour the remark was made for we realized that we were lost, and were sitting, the two of us in a small boat, the gunwales of which were barely four inches out of water, wrapped in our rubber coats and blankets to keep out the penetrating brown-gray fog that hung like a pall about the lagoon. For miles and miles on either hand stretched away the bewildering maze of water waste, rank with the growth of cane brake, mammoth bull-rushes and water grasses, with now and then a clump of stunted willows, their roots often eight or ten feet below the water surface. The only semblance of solidity in all that territory being where every now and then an alligator had wallowed down the coarse reeds and formed a "bed" where he could lie and drag out his slothful existence in the sunlight. On one of the 'gator beds the bow of our boat, the "Water Turkey" rested. The witching hour of midnight was drawing near but the night was moonless and would be for hours. Our view embraced only the silhouette like forms of a clump of water willows before us, and dimly out lined water paths radiating about us. Mosquitoes delighted and surprised to find human blood "on tap" in that locality, "bored" us until we were glad to "bag our heads" in handkerchiefs and amid these surroundings and sitting upright, because there wasn't room among our "plunderments" to stretch out, we fell asleep. We were suddenly awakened but perhaps I am getting ahead of my story for possibly someone may be interested to know how we came to be in such a predicament. We were in Florida that winter for the purpose of collecting Natural History specimens, and especially birds. Nearly three weeks before we had been landed from a little one horse river steamer at the then new town of Sanford on Lake Monroe, two hundred miles above Jacksonville.

It was our intention to visit the famous Indian River country and though one or two scow-like "wheelbarrow" steamers made spasmodic trips farther up the river, we knew that that kind of traveling and collecting wouldnt "jibe." We had hoped here in Sanford to be able to purchase a boat in which to make the trip but we were disappointed in this and set about making one ourselves out of green hard pine, the only lumber procurable, and in two days' time the "Water Turkey" was ready for launching. She was a compromise between a scow, a dory and a batteau, the stern and bow rising sharply from the flat bottom, batteau fashion; but as our boards would not permit a greater length than fifteen feet it was made square at each end, thus increasing its carrying capacity, and fortunate it was too that it was allowed to be as big as possible for when loaded for the trip and we the passengers had wedged ourselves in among the chests, boxes, rolls of blankets, tent, bag of sweet potatoes, arsenal of firearms, etc., etc., it was found that the gunwales of the "Water Turkey" but little more than cleared smooth water. We had a rude general idea of the route, which we had gleaned from the river residents, though it is wonderful how little useful information a Florida "Cracker" can impart.

In our steamboat trip up the "Lower" St. Johns we had watched the topography of the country closely and though the banks of the river were nowhere high we had always found them well defined and apparently affording good camping grounds. Another thing that had impressed us forcibly was the way the river bulged itself into lakes until it resembled nothing more than an irregular string of sausages. We knew that from Salt Lake about seventy-five miles above Sanford there was a road across to Sand Point or Titusville on the Indian River, a distance of about six miles. We knew too, that is, parties more or less familiar with the route had told us that Woodward's Creek would afford a "cut off" between Lake Monroe and Jessup and in the same way we knew that we had to travel through Mullet Lake, Lake Harney, Mud Lake and Puzzle Lake before reaching Salt Lake, especially Puzzle

Lake, for every native we consulted regarding our trip had shook Puzzle Lake in our faces as the *bete noire* of the expedition. "I reckon you all are tired of life," they would remark. "Why, man pears like you alls crazy to attempt a trip like that without a guide may be you all might make Lake Harney but if you go beyond there you can never get through Puzzle Lake, nothin'll ever be heard from you again if you chance it, 'gators and buzzards will pick your bones up there among them "perararhs" and no white man will ever find your boat."

The educator and I listened to a large amount of such talk during the time we were getting ready for the trip but we thought a great deal of it might be made in the interest of parties desirous of guiding jobs, and when later on we had pitched our tent on Pine Island in beautiful Lake Harney without having once missed our way or having met with a mishap of any sort we were inclined to pat ourselves on the back as natural pathfinders. A northeast storm held us close prisoners for three days here but finally at about one p. m. on the 22nd of December, the storm abated, the waves disappeared and we made all haste to continue our journey, well knowing that our craft could only live in the calmest water and not caring to tarry another night on the island. Within an hour from the time we had left the island we began to realize that it was one thing to find our way into Lake Harney and another thing to find our way out of it. The whole country south of the lake looked like one vast water meadow, its width was some ten or twelve miles but its length was an unknown quantity. This huge prairie(?) is pierced in every direction with channels which become choked with "lettuce" and lily pads, and hemmed in by cane brake and gigantic rushes, while elsewhere it gives growth to a luxuriant, coarse grass which sways and trembles as the muddy current of the river slowly courses through it, for though somewhere in this waste of cane brake and aquatic growth the river has, or is said to have, a channel, it is only necessary for steamboating for here the St. Johns spreads its waters out at will and a current of several miles an hour may be found even

amid its rankest vegetation.

We failed to connect with the channel at all that night, though by means of the small lagoons and waterways we penetrated the prairie several miles, when the sun now drawn near to the horizon warned us that we should be locating a camping place. About two miles to the southwest we could see a small clump of palmettos, there we thought, could we make it, would be dry ground but after several ineffectual attempts we began to despair of reaching it, we would with much difficulty force our boat through some opening in the wall of cane brake only to find a denser growth of cane or a mud flat balking us. Never did a checker player make more moves to reach the king row than did we while trying to find our way to that little isle, the only break in that vast prairie of dancing reeds. At last just as the sun dropped behind the cypresses on the western boundry, it revealed to us a straight, clear channel to our goal. Sunset means darkness in that flat country and it was upon us before we had run our boat up under the shadow of the trees and a faint reflection caught from the western sky touched their roots and trunks in a manner that disheartened us. "Overflowed!" we both exclaimed in concert.

There seemed then nothing to be done but to pass the night aboard the "Water Turkey" as best we could. Eating a lunch we arranged our boxes so that we might approximate a reclining position with a view to making as easy a night of it as circumstances would permit. We had but settled ourselves when we were aroused by the beating of heavy wings, and a great blue heron flew into a tree almost over our heads. His feet could hardly have touched the branch when the educator's gun brought him crashing down into the underbrush. My end of the boat being nearest where the bird struck, I balanced myself along a fallen tree and attempted to pick it up, when a misstep sent me rolling off, not into the water, but on as dry a piece of ground as we could have asked for. The reflection had completely deceived us, and had it not been for the heron, the chances are we should have sat the night out in our boat, to learn when daylight came that we had only to take a step

and have as comfortable a camping place as we found anywhere in the State. It was but a minute's work to gather enough palmetto "bones" for a good fire and soon a kettle of hasty pudding was bubbling and steaming in a most cheerful manner. After putting the bulk of it where it would do us the greatest good we rolled ourselves in our blankets, and without other covering than the sky, slept till broad daylight.

Our good fortune, we found, had thrown us upon one of those shell mounds, the origin of which is as much enveloped in mystery as the famous burial mounds, which too abound in Florida. It was perhaps as I remember it, ten rods in diameter, nearly circular, and in the center rose to a height of several feet above the surrounding "prairie," it was covered with a generous growth of palmettos, persimmons, hackberry and sweetbay. The skull of a deer bore testimony that others had been there before us. We bade adieu to "Camp Providence," as we had named the mound (though we afterwards learned it was locally known as Orange Mound) at about 9 a. m. having now about forty-five miles lying between us and Salt Lake, which we doubted not, constituted another "sausage" in the string. We were not dead sure of being in the true channel of the river once that day, we would no sooner think we had found it than a barrier of stout cane brake would present itself a seemingly impregnable wall before us; through this we would force our boat with the greatest difficulty, sometimes more than ten rods before we again found clear water. We dined in our boat that day for want of terra firma.

A little after noon we discerned a pillar of black smoke in the southeast. At first we thought it might come from the smoke stack of a steamer in which case we would eventually be able to locate the channel by it, but as it proved to be stationary we took it as a point to steer for. A little later we struck a creek, if it could be so termed, which seemed to lead us in that direction without obstruction. We could now see that the smoke issued from the main land in the vicinity of several "hamaks." This was encouraging even if we were running away from Salt Lake, as we

more than half believed we were. As we worked our way up against the current we surprised a pair of black headed vultures, the only ones we saw in the State, making a disgusting meal off the bloated and odorous carcass of a deceased 'gator. They were evidently too full for utterance and too full for flying, for they sat there nodding their sooty heads and blinking their small eyes sleepily as we rowed past them.

Voices soon reached us from the hamak whence the smoke arose. As we drew near a log hut presented itself in the midst of what looked like a field of gigantic corn. A mule in the foreground, attached to a sweep such as we have seen in old time cider mills, was making its endless round and round, belabored and shouted at by a boy from his perch on the end of the sweep, where he sat sucking a stalk of sugar cane when not using it for a whip. Over the fire, where two or three men were busy, were large caldrons from which a dense steam arose and we knew instinctively that we had struck a cane patch where the process of syrup making was in full blast. All work was suspended so that the men might gaze at us as we rowed down by them, for we had no intention of advertising ourselves "lost, strayed or stolen" but decided to camp for the night in a hamak beyond. Certain kinds of bird life abounded, herons of several species were flying over in flocks, pairs and singles. In a mammoth live oak near the cane camp hundreds of fish crows were making the air clamorous with their cries. On a tussock of grass a little farther along we saw a courlan, otherwise known as a "crying bird" and "limpkin" jerking its head up and down in the most solemn and at the same time laughable manner imaginable. These birds present the least fear of man of any species I ever met with. When startled they fly but a short distance with their long legs dangling and neck outstretched presenting a ludicrous appearance. They are about two-thirds the size of the great blue heron, of a faded chocolate brown color, streaked with white with a long, slim bill with a drooping curve after the manner of the ibis. A bird capable of making more noise never lived. We did not pitch our tent that night but again

rolled ourselves in our blankets before a fire of palmetto "bones."

Early the next morning we were astir and wondered "where we were at." We decided that if we had a little more than held our own the preceeding day and now were within say forty miles of Salt Lake we had accomplished all that we could expect under the circumstances. After breakfast we visited the cane patch. After watching a great live man feed cane stalks slowly, one after another, to the horizontal iron rollers, much as a woman feeds clothes to a wringing machine, but far more leisurely, the Educator asked in an off hand manner, as if he had no interest at stake in the answer, how far it was to Salt Lake. The answer "ten miles" came out so unexpectedly that I, in my surprise came near revealing our situation. "But why do you all ask that question?" continued our informant, "you gentlemen are, it appears like, from the No'th yet you seem to know this river like a Floridian to take this cut off 'tis mighty few of the river pilots knows it, though hitsaves one-half the distance between Harney and Salt Lake." Didn't we have an attack of the "big head" though! Here we were within ten miles of our objective point and Puzzle Lake wasn't in it, and in fact we hadn't been in it, I mean in Puzzle Lake. If we had accomplished so much accidentally, why couldnt we hope to bring about all other results intuitively?

That was about the position we were in, for after buying a small quantity of hog and hominy together with some of the new and delicious syrup, hot from the kettle, we set out upon our journey without asking for any directions and why should we? Hadn't we found the "cut off" via Persimmon Hamak as the cane patch was called, a "cut off" barely known to native born pilots. The owner of the mill told us that his crew were soon going to Salt Lake in a row boat, on the way to their homes in La Grange to spend Christmas and by following them we should "avoid all danger of missing our way." That cluse rather hurt our self conceit and besides that, to shoot over a locality through which a boat had already preceeded us wasn't at all according to our ideas.

We expected to reach the lake by ten o'clock, still believing it was simply a bulge in the river. We pulled down past the hamak where we had passed the night, then came a large space of water closely filled with aquatic plants which a few days later we learned was Mud Lake and that here we should have diverged due east, instead we continued on by an abandoned cane field, its cabin almost in ruins, a mound rising in the center of the patch gave evidence that its site was what is termed in southern parlance an "indian old field." After this we entered a seemingly endless succession of cane brake reeds and water plants. Birds became plentier and it seemed to us far less suspicious. The weather since our introduction to the State had been, with the exception of the days on Pine Island, like that of New England's Indian summer and this day proved no exception to the common rule, so perhaps it isn't strange that with new wonders constantly revealing themselves to us that time flew faster than we realized, till finding ourselves in a very small lake the only apparent exit to which was the very opening by which we had entered it, we paused for consultation and examining our watches, were surprised to find it was high noon. Past twelve and we had reckoned on being at Salt Lake two hours ago! No landmarks could be seen in any direction, nothing but one vast prairie of waving cane.

While eating our lunch, which as usual we had cooked before leaving camp in the morning, we decided that rather than to turn and take our "back tracks" that we would, if we could see clear water on either side of us, force our boat into it if possible. By standing up on the boat thwarts we discovered what looked as if it might be the river's channel on our right, and by breaking down the wall of reeds before us with an oar and then pushing with our united strength we succeeded little by little in working through. What we had mistaken for the river proved to be but another lagoon or "lake" which soon came to an end, then ensued another series of pushing and again we were in clear water.

So passed the afternoon, varied only as the lagoons and barriers of cane varied in extent, save when we

now and then picked up a new specimen or shot into an alligator, for we frequently surprised them outstretched on their "beds" sunning. These beds which at first are started by the saurians wallowing down a mass of reeds and cane, soon catch much of the sediment which the current is continually carrying through these prairies, forming the nearest approach to terra ferma we had seen since passing "Indian old field."

About four o'clock we forced our way into a larger lagoon than we had before entered. At one end of it was a clump of water willows, the only sign of tree life to be seen for miles. In these were perched with outspread wings after the manner of vultures, a dozen or more of Anhingas or water turkeys; these instead of being alarmed at our sudden appearance, simply gazed at us in astonishment. A charge of shot fired among them wounded one which escaped and sent the rest tumbling headlong into the water after their characteristic manner, only the wounded one acting as if it wasn't killed outright. The discharge of the gun waked up an immense 'gator which had been snoozing away his time on a bed at the foot of the willows, and with a great splash he too disappeared. After leaving this lagoon the spaces of open water grew smaller and the intervening stretches of brake and reeds longer till just as the sun was sinking from sight, we were forcing our way into a vast plain of grass-like reeds, which bore as much resemblance to a river as a mowing field does to an ocean. Not a sign of water could be seen as we looked off across it, and our boat was leaving behind the same kind of a trail that one makes in walking through tall, heavy grass; yet by running our oars down eight feet we could not find bottom. Just here we made a startling discovery. We were working our way towards the setting sun, and we knew Salt Lake must lie to the east of the prairie.

How long we had been directing our course west we had no idea, for we had followed where open water led, without any regard to the points of compass. There was but one thing for us to do, and that was to work our way back over the course we had come till darkness overtook us, and

then wait for morning. This part of our route was not difficult to trace, owing to the "wallows" we had left in the reeds, but beyond that it was not pleasant to think of. Hastily we threaded our way back till darkness stopped our further progress just as we entered the large lagoon where, in the afternoon, we had discovered the water turkeys in the willows and startled the big 'gator from his bed. Cautiously we worked our way to that bed, for if his 'gatorship was gone it would be a good chance to ground (?) our boat for the night. We found it vacated, and accordingly laid our boat up alongside. It was a light supper we ate that night; we had but little cooked food left, and we could form no estimate how long we might have to subsist on it. Our greatest fear was that if we were lost many days in the prairie, we might strain our boat in pushing her through the cane, so that we could not keep her afloat. Our situation in such an event would be terrible, for impeded by grass as we should be, there would be no hope of ever reaching terra firma.

And these were the events and circumstances which lead to our passing the night in the Devil's Lagoon and to our disturbed slumbers on that same Christmas eve. When brought so suddenly to our senses we could have been dozing but a few minutes, however, we were conscious of a terrific splash and an accompanying lurching of our craft. Pulling ourselves quickly together we found our boat nearly filled with water and much of our baggage overboard. We gathered in such of it as floated, but no inconsiderable amount of camp utensils still lie beneath those murky waters. The finder may keep them for his honesty. The only way to explain our mishap was that the alligator owning that particular bed had returned home late, perhaps with a "jag on," and endeavoring to crawl over or into our boat, had nearly upset us. As can readily be imagined, there was little sleep for us after this, neither did we "use round" the vicinity of that 'gator's claim any more, the middle of the lagoon was good enough for us from that time on, and for exercise, the Educator paddled the "Water Turkey" back and forth over our limited domains at frequent

intervals. The moon rose towards morning and its reflection on a neighboring fog bank created a lunar rainbow of great beauty. As the sky lighted it showed us that, as in the afternoon, several water turkeys were roosting in the willows.

By wetting up a bit of calced plaster and covering our gun sights with it we found we could do a very good job of "sighting" in the imperfect light, and we tumbled one after another of these unique birds into the water till we were satisfied we had killed eight of them, our excuse for such wholesale slaughter was that heretofore we had found this species very difficult to approach and they are quite a desideratum in collections. They belong to the family of "darters" and also travel under the name of "snake bird" and "anhinga." Only one of the birds fell on our side of the bushes, this we retrieved at once. The balance were swallowed by alligators before it was light enough to work our boat to them.

As morning dawned immense numbers of herons of several varieties flew over us. A snowy heron, which had intended to light in the lagoon, seeing us wheeled rapidly away but the Educator, with a well directed shot brought it down. In trying to secure a cormorant which had settled down at some distance from us, we pursued it into an arm of the lagoon we had not before visited. From this we discovered a creek-like channel, the quicker current of which indicated something more than another branch to a lagoon. We decided to follow it rather than to retrace our old route farther. This was our first experience going with the current which was really considerable. Perhaps lack of sleep may have exaggerated the sensation somewhat, but as aided by the stream, we cruised down that creek it seemed to us both as if we were sliding down hill—a feeling I never remember to have experienced when running down really swift rivers. In places the channel would narrow till it was barely a yard in width, again it would be choked with "lettuce" but no serious obstacles presented themselves. In a low willow we discovered a "water turkey" on her nest, from which we obtained four bluish white eggs which

were covered with a thin white calcareous deposit as with the herons. Ornithological works report them as nesting in March and April and we were therefore surprised to find them at it thus early.

Farther on we came to a lone dwarfed cypress surmounted by a bulky nest in which a great blue heron stood sentinel, this contained no eggs. About two o'clock that afternoon we emerged from our creek into the channel of the true St. Johns itself, in sight of the tall palmettos in the rear of the deserted cane patch at "Indian old field," where we soon after landed, sleepy and hungry. About noon on the 29th we received a call from the syrup makers, who returning from their Christmas festivities, had caught sight of our tent and pulled in to pass the time o' day with us. They expressed surprise at finding us still on the St. Johns, but we showed them skins of least bittern, courlans, anhingas, kites, white and snowy herons and wood ibis and intimated that a good collecting ground was the excuse for our present location. Just as they were departing we casually asked for directions to Salt Lake. It was then that we learned that at Mud Lake, about half way between our present camp and theirs, we should have borne sharply to the east, instead we had kept on a good twenty miles to the south.

Our visitors were hardly out of sight before we had struck camp and were following them back as far as Mud Lake. From this we entered Snake Creek, rightly named for a more sinuous channel it was never my fortune to see. Emerging from this, we came out in sight of the storehouse and knew at last we were on Salt Lake, a body of water called three miles long by two wide, but it must take very high water to give it these dimensions. The piney woods nearly touch the shore for a short distance on the eastern side where the storehouse is, but otherwise it is surrounded by a vast marsh, why the water of this lake should be brackish is a mystery.

The Volusia, a small steamer, was unloading her cargo being taken ashore on lighters. We sent a box of specimens back to Sanford on her, and then made a bargain with a teamster

who was just starting for Titusville with a load of freight, to come back for us in the morning.

We slept in the storehouse, the first time we had been under a roof to pass the night since we left the St. Johns House, Palatka. We took an early breakfast and soon after "that man Bailey," a veritable "cracker," though an imported one, for he claimed Georgia, or "Gouga," in his vernacular, as a birthplace, appeared stockingless, a slouched hat, once white perhaps, a cotton shirt, a pair of well worn overalls held in place by a single suspender, that was his dress and typical of his class throughout that country. His team was made up of six "alleged" oxen, with their horns bored full of holes as a cure for, or a hoodoo against, some disease. Such a team as it was would make a Maine farmer's heart ache, scrawny, poor, half broken cattle; but the team suited its driver and the driver his team, and his pride in "them cows" was worthy of a better purpose. To induce speed (?) he carried a whip with a twelve foot lash and a twelve inch stock. At the rare intervals when it was not in use, he let the lash trail behind him from his shoulder, the weight of the stock in front keeping it in position. Though our boat, baggage and all could hardly have weighed half a ton yet it was a good load for "them cows" and it was late in the afternoon when we emerged from the piney woods into Titusville, the shire town of Brevard County and the Indian River, our Mecca, lay before us.

The Maine Audubon Society has now ten local secretaries in various parts of the state. It already numbers 265 regular members and 758 associate members. As all these are pledged to the protection of our native birds, and many of them are engaged in studying and observing them, it will be seen that a most useful work is already in progress. It is desired to increase the number of branches in the state and any person willing to assist in the formation of local societies is invited to correspond with the state secretary, Mrs. C. B. Tuttle, East Fairfield, Me.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

Gardiner, Me., Oct. 27-28, 1903.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society was called to order in room one of the High School by the President, Capt. H. L. Spinney of Seguin, 10.30 a. m.

Officers present, Pres., Capt. H. L. Spinney, Seguin; vice president, Prof. L. A. Lee, Brunswick; Sec'y-Treas., Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner; editor, John Merton Swain, Skowhegan; Councillor, Prof. A. L. Lane, East Fairfield.

Members present, Prof. J. Y. Stanton, Lewiston; A. H. Norton, Westbrook; Mrs. A. H. Norton, Westbrook; Frank Noble, Augusta; Emma Day, Gardiner; Harry Morrell, Gardner. The secretary's report of the seventh annual meeting which was held in Portland, Nov. 29-30, 1902 was read and confirmed.

Secretary Wm. L. Powers then reported that only four members, vice Pres., L. A. Lee of Brunswick, councillor, A. L. Lane, East Fairfield, editor, John Merton Swain, Skowhegan, Sec'y-Treas., Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner, attended the summer meeting which was held at Skowhegan, June 29-July 3 at the same place and time as the summer meeting of the Joselyn Botanical Society. It was a great disappointment to the officers that more active members did not see fit to attend. Notwithstanding the small number of ornithologists present the program was carried out as previously arranged with the botanists. Mr. Swain and Mr. Powers carried on field work and were fairly successful finding such rare species as the meadow lark, water thrush and swamp sparrows. Several nests of the latter were found and excellent opportunities were enjoyed for observing these and many less rare birds.

The Wednesday evening program was carried out as follows: A paper on "The Economic Value of Birds," was read by Mr. Swain and a series of lantern slides were exhibited by Prof. Lee with explanations by Mr. Powers. The meeting was held in the largest church in the village and was well patronized by an appreciative audience.

After the reading of these reports by the secretary, Pres. Spinney de-

livered his annual address. It is a matter of regret that this had not been committed to writing and that it cannot be reproduced in the Journal for it was an able address and demanded the closest attention of the society. Mr. Swain then read his report as editor.

Mr. Norton on behalf of the committee on Audubon Societies asked an extension of time and it was granted by the chair.

The names of Joseph W. Leathers of Portland for active membership, and Owen Durfee, Fall River, Mass., and Arthur C. Bent, Taunton, Mass., for corresponding membership, were proposed and elected.

Prof. Stanton of Lewiston then made an address to the members on the work accomplished in the past and the prospects for the future. Prof. Stanton's long experience in the field of ornithology, his intimate knowledge of the work done by similar societies, his acquaintance with the leading ornithologists of the world enabled him to speak as no other member of the society could do. He was listened to with the closest attention and all deemed it the most finished address ever delivered to the society. The heart of every member was filled with enthusiasm for the excellent showing made in the seven years of the society's existence. Mr. Norton most heartily endorsed the words of Prof. Stanton and stated that we ought not to feel discouraged at the meagre attendance. Other societies of a similar nature were struggling, like ourselves, with the problem of maintaining a large working membership.

Mr. Knowlton of Augusta considered that the thanks of the society were due to Prof. Stanton and they were extended with a will. Continuing, Mr. Noble said that the main issue was to make the Journal so valuable to bird lovers that it would demand their attention and respect. He mistrusted that most of the active members did not deem short notes on mere observations of any value to the editor. But his experience lead him to believe that short articles on actual observations were just what was most needed by each to arouse his dormant faculties. He also suggested that addressed envelopes printed with the stamp of the society be sent to all subscrib-

ers to serve as a constant reminder of the needs of the society.

Mr. Swain endorsed Mr. Noble's suggestions and stated that short articles were always acceptable.

Mr. Powers suggested the exhaustive treatment in the society organ of the Warbler Family by a committee appointed for the purpose.

The chair then appointed the following committees: On nominations, Stanton, Lane, Norton; on resolutions, Swain, Miss Day, Lane; on special work, Noble, Lane, Norton; auditing committee, Lane, Swain.

Adjourned to 2.30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Meeting called to order at 2.30 by Pres. Spinney. The secretary's report of the forenoon session was read and accepted.

The president then called upon G. D. Libby of Gardiner, who read a most interesting and instructive paper upon the Woodcock. This paper was the outgrowth of twenty years' successful experience with gun and dog after this highly prized game bird.

In the absence of Hon. Jas. Carroll Mead of North Bridgton, his paper on "Lost in a Florida Swamp" was read by the secretary. This was followed by Prof. Stanton's paper on "Man's Relation to the Lower Animals."

Prof. Lee then gave a resume of the life work of the naturalist of the St. Croix Valley, the late Geo. A. Boardman. Mr. Boardman was an honorary member of the M. O. S.

Adjourned to 7.30.

The evening meeting was called to order promptly by the secretary who introduced Capt. Spinney of Seguin. Capt. Spinney has made a life study of the annual flights of birds, and his long experience as a light house keeper has given him exceptional opportunities that have not been neglected.

Prof. Lee was then introduced and showed 100 beautiful lantern slides made by Mr. Norton of Westbrook during his trip last summer along the coast of Maine in search of breeding colonies of shore birds. Mr. Norton explained the pictures as they were shown and held the closest attention of the audience. His lecture was followed by a few choice pictures made by Prof. Lee in California, and some

of especial interest from negatives of previous years. The evening's entertainment was a grand success and netted the society \$16 from admissions.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Meeting called to order at 10 o'clock by Pres. Spinney.

Prof. Lane of the auditing committee reported that the treasurer's books had been examined and found to be truly and accurately kept.

The same person on behalf of the committee on nominations stated that the committee had attended to its duty and begged leave to report as follows: Pres., Capt. H. L. Spinney, of Seguin; Vice Pres., Prof. L. A. Lee, Brunswick; Sec'y., and Treas., Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner; councillor, Prof. A. L. Lane, East Fairfield; councillor, Ora W. Knight, M. Sc., Bangor; editor, John Merton Swain, Skowhegan.

On motion of Mr. Norton the report was accepted and Prof. Lane was authorized to cast the ballot of the society for these officers.

On motion of Mr. Norton, Mr. Noble of Augusta was elected associate editor.

Mr. Swain of the committee on resolutions submitted the following report:

Resolved, That the thanks of the society are due and are hereby tendered to Mrs. Powers for her kindness to the members while in attendance at this meeting; to the M. C. R. for granting reduced rates, and to the Gardiner members, and the public who have helped to make our meetings a success.

The society thereupon voted to accept the report and instructed the secretary to send copies to the persons named therein.

Prof. Lane, president of the Maine Audubon Society, reported that there were six local societies now in active operation in the state.

Mr. Norton on behalf of the committee on Audubon societies reported that little had yet been accomplished in this direction by the Maine Ornithological Society, and Pres. Spinney reappointed the same committee to hold over another year.

The committee is composed of the following members: Chairman, A. H. Norton, Westbrook; Prof., A. L.

Lane, East Fairfield; Miss Edith Boardman, Brunswick; Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner; Miss M. O. Barrell, York.

Mr. Noble, of the committee on special work for the year submitted the following: That a special committee be appointed to make an exhaustive study of the Maine Warblers and print their report and findings in the Journal, said committee to consist of chairman, Ora W. Knight, Bangor; J. M. Swain, Skowhegan; H. L. Spinney, Seguin; W. L. Powers, Gardiner.

Signed, F. T. NOBLE, Ch.,
A. H. NORTON,
A. L. LANE,

Committee on Special Work.

Mr. Norton of the committee on New Draft of Constitution submitted the following report:

CONSTITUTION OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Article I.

Name and objects.

Sec. 1. This society shall be called the Maine Ornithological Society.

Sec. 2. The objects of this society shall be, to promote the science of ornithology in Maine, to encourage a love for birds in her citizens, to stand for the passage and enforcement of wise and judicious laws for bird protection.

Article II.

Members.

Sec. 1. The membership shall consist of active, honorary, associate, and corresponding members.

Sec. 2. Active members shall be residents of Maine actively engaged in promoting the objects of the society.

Sec. 3. Any person of eminence in ornithology may be elected honorary member.

Sec. 4. Any person outside the state willing to cooperate in the work of the society may be elected corresponding member.

Sec. 5. Any person having a kindly interest in birds may be elected associate member.

Article III.

Officers.

Sec. 1. The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Sec'y., Treasurer, Editor, Associate Editor and two Councilors, these officers to con-

stitute the executive committee to be known as the council. They shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting and shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

Sec. 2. The President, or in his absence the Vice President, shall preside over the meetings of the society and of the executive committee. He may appoint such special committees as he deems expedient, and shall fill all vacancies as they occur..

Sec. 3. The Sec'y.-Treasurer shall keep all records, collect dues from the members, pay the bills approved by the president, and give all members at least two weeks' notice of all meetings.

Sec. 4. The executive committee shall have charge of the interests of the society, shall arrange for the annual meeting, and shall publish such papers and bulletins as are not otherwise provided for.

Sec. 5. The executive committee shall have power to suspend or expel any member found guilty of illegal or dishonorable practice in connection with the society or its objects, provided written charges are preferred and filed with the president and thirty days' notice be sent to the accused party.

Article IV.

Fees and dues.

Sec. 1. The admission fee for active and corresponding members shall be one dollar which shall constitute the only assessment of the first year of membership. The annual dues shall be one dollar thereafter.

Sec. 2. The admission fee for associate members shall be fifty cents, and the annual dues thereafter shall be fifty cents. They shall receive the official organ but may not vote.

Sec. 3. Any member who fails to pay his dues within three months after they become due shall not receive the official organ until their arrears are paid.

Sec. 4. Honorary members shall receive the official organ "gratis" but shall have no vote.

Article V.

Meetings, quorum, by laws.

Sec. 1. This society shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as may be determined by the executive committee, provided notice be given as required by Art. III, section 3 of this constitution.

Sec. 2. Special meetings may be held upon the call of the president when approved by a majority of the executive committee.

Sec. 3. Five active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the active members present at any legal meeting, or of the council at other times, shall suffice for the passage of any matter except that of the next article.

Sec. 4. This society may adopt such by laws and rules for its government, as shall seem necessary to supplement this constitution, provided they do not contravene any part thereof.

Article VI.

Amendments.

Sec. 1. This constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any legal meeting, provided thirty days' notice of the proposed change be given each active member.

On motion of Prof. Lee, voted to adopt the constitution as proposed by the committee.

On motion of Mr. Noble, adjourned.
WM. L. POWERS, Secy.

Bird Notes.

The addition of this new column, "Bird Notes," will, we trust, please our members and readers. We shall hope to have much material of interest to all. This column will be under the supervision of the associate editor and all notes for this column should be sent direct to him.

Under this heading it is desired to embrace such brief, interesting notes of personal observation of bird life within our state as may come to the knowledge of the Journal readers from time to time. Such items are earnestly solicited and our readers should bear in mind that observations and discoveries of interest to them may likewise be both instructive and entertaining to the large number of bird lovers and students who peruse our columns and that their good fortune in this respect should be shared

freely with the other ornithologists of the state.—Ed.

An unusual capture, far inland, of a strictly marine bird occurred on Sept. 17 last when a young male Wilson's Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus* (Kuml) was taken on Lake Cobboscontee near Augusta. The bird was evidently blown inland during the heavy southeast gale which prevailed on our coast about that date. It was presented by F. G. Kinsman, Esq., one of the cottagers at the lake, to the associate editor for his scientific collection.

Prof. A. L. Lane writes the Journal that a large flock of snowflakes numbering a hundred or more, is spending the winter near Good Will Farm in Fairfield and that it is a very interesting and beautiful sight to watch them as they scurry from place to place searching every bit of stubble or weeds that may promise them food. They were especially active and fearless in the cold days which followed so closely upon the opening of the new year.

President Spinney of Seguin advises us under recent date that on Dec. 2d he captured a fox sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*, which had injured itself by flying against the light. Also that again on Dec. 17th he observed another specimen of the same species resting in the lee of the buildings. The thermometer at this time registered only fourteen degrees above zero and the wind was blowing a gale from the northwest. Pretty late migrants.

From North Bridgeton, Maine, one of our esteemed members, Hon. J. Carroll Mead, writes us under date of Jan. 5th that although the thermometer is registering 22 degrees below zero he can see from a window of his residence a downy woodpecker busily and effectively cutting the bark from an elm tree in search of his breakfast while in the same tree with him were several red breasted nuthatches and one white breasted. Surely the rigor of our northern climate has no terrors for such as these.

The Journal solicits information on Richardson's owl, *Nyctala tenuis* *richardsoni* (Bonap.) which appeared last winter, 1902-03, in Maine and several northern states in num-

bers sufficient to indicate a general southerly movement similar to that observed in so many other boreal birds. Mr. Arthur H. Norton of Westbrook advises us that the first specimens to come under his notice were a couple of mounted specimens seen about Nov. 22d, 1902, at the rooms of a Portland taxidermist. They had been taken near that city, one of them at Peaks Island. The latest one of which he had knowledge was taken Jan. 16, 1903. Will all having records of the bird for that season and the present one favor the Journal with particulars?

It will interest the readers of the Journal to learn that the associate editor while on a late ducking trip in Merry meeting bay, Nov. 4 and 5, had the rare good fortune on the first day to observe a flock of some twenty-five redheads, two of which he secured, and on the second day to capture a beautiful pair of mallards, duck and drake. These choice birds have been preserved and added to his mounted collection of Maine wild fowl. Both of these species have heretofore been exceedingly scarce in Maine waters and doubtless the recently enacted laws prohibiting spring shooting have had a tendency to increase the numbers migrating through the state and possibly some may now remain within our borders to breed. A consummation devoutly to be wished. Notes in reference to this from other observers would be of interest.

A PURPLE SANDPIPER, *TRINGA MARITIMA*, IN SUMMER.

In August, 1902, while Mr. Arthur H. Norton and Capt. H. L. Spinney were making ornithological observations at Metinic and adjacent ledges and islands they saw several times among the thousands of *limicolae* there a sandpiper which they were unable at first to identify.

On Aug. 11 it was found for the last time on Matinic reef where Mr. Norton secured it and settled its identity.

It was a female *Tringa maritima* and showed no signs of ever having been wounded.

It was in a plumage essentially similar to that of winter, but its colors were intensified by wear. In correspondence with the Journal Mr. Norton

says: "Several of my friends were sure of having seen this species in summer, but I am not aware that it has previously been preserved or recorded as occurring in Maine at this season." The Journal would be pleased to receive notes or observations of this species from its readers.

Among Our Exchanges.

Birds of Fergus County, Montana, is the title of a neat list put out as "Bulletin No 1, Fergus County High School," and is compiled by the principal, Prof. Perley M. Silloway. In this list the status of each species found in the county is given, together with the distinguishing features of each species or sub-species. The work is profusely illustrated by photographs of birds, nests and eggs from Prof. M. J. Elrod of the University of Montana and E. R. Warren of Colorado, Springs. On the whole, this Bulletin is a very interesting work and a credit to this progressive school and to Prof. Silloway. J. M. S.

We are glad to note that the Oologist, a little magazine so well known in former years to all of us, is to be revived and improved. We presume its owner and founder, Dr. F. H. Latting, has been too busy in the last year or two with his official business to devote much time to his little magazine, but Mr. Ernest H. Short of Chili, N. Y., is to assume full charge of it and we doubt not it will again be brought up to its old standard.

Bird-lore in its Nov.-Dec. issue, which completes Vol. V, begins a series of articles on "The Migration of the Warblers" by Prof. W. W. Cook of the U. S. Biological Survey, illustrated by colored plates from the drawings of Louis Agassiz, Fuertes and Bruce Horsfall. These plates are works of art and of much value to the bird student and the teacher as well, and will help to make Bird-lore one of the foremost magazines for bird students in America.

With the January number American Ornithology begins its IVth volume. Commencing with the January number the publishers will give in addition to the numerous photos of birds, nests and eggs, two or more

full page color plates of birds. These will show the male and female birds in breeding plumage, also in winter plumage, and the young when the plumage differs from the adult birds. Mr. Reed seems determined to keep us guessing as to what next we may expect in his bright and valuable bird magazine.

Practically all we eastern bird men know of the bird life on the Farrallone islands off the coast of California has been supplied by the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club of that state. The Condor, their official organ, in the Sept.-Oct. number contains a valuable contribution entitled "Bird Life on the Farallones," finely illustrated from photographs by the author, Mr. H. B. Kaeding, secretary of the northern division of the club. Other articles of especial interest are "Some Observations on the Nesting Habits of the Prairie Falcon" by D. A. Cohen, and "With the Mearns Quail in Southwestern Texas" by L. A. Fuertes. The Condor continues to keep well to the front as a bright, instructive bird magazine and if our eastern bird students would keep in touch with ornithology on the Pacific coast they must read the Condor.

The November issue of The Atlantic Slope Naturalist, edited by W. E. Rotzell, M. D., of Narbeth, Penn., reaches our exchange table and is full of interesting material. We note articles from the pen of such popular writers as Wm. L. Kells of Listowell, Ont., and Dr. Morris Gibbs of Kalamazoo, Mich., and W. J. Hoxie of Savannah, Ga., all of whom the readers of the old Boston O. & O. are familiar.

Two very interesting bulletins published by the U. S. fish commission, Nos. 531 and 532, by William Converse Kendall, one of our active members, reach us. "Notes on Some Fresh Water Fishes from Maine" and "Habits of Some of the Commercial Cat Fishes" are the titles of the above bulletins and are full of interest to the student of nature.

"The Food and Game Fishes of New York" by Tarleton H. Bean is another interesting work on the fishes that reaches us. It is profusely illustrated with 29 plates and 132 text figures.

AN ORNITHOLOGICAL THRONE.

BY A. B. KLUGH.

Sec'y, Wellington Field Naturalist's Club.
Guelph, Ont

This throne was not one of the gold and plush affairs which the unfortunate individuals known as kings have to occupy, but the upturned roots of a forest giant, which reached upward some fifteen feet into the air. It stood in the middle of a swale—just such a place as the migratory passers love to visit on their journeys—and on Sept. 1 of last year I took my seat upon it.

When in this elevated position I appeared to be among the branches of the smaller trees, and at this season it was a most interesting place to be, as they were inhabited in succession by thousands of birds. Birds were everywhere in the swale, among the brush piles were White-throated Sparrows, Mourning Warblers and Winter Wrens, in the tree tops were Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Yellow-throated Vireos, Crested Flycatchers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers and Magnolia Warblers, while in various situations were Nashville Warblers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Red eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Catbirds, Purple Finches, Black and White Warblers, Redstarts, Oven-birds and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

From the throne there branched out a slender root and on this a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird alighted and sat for some time within reach of my hand.

Red-eyed Vireos and many species of Warblers gleaned their fare within a few feet of my eyes, while up and down the trunks of the same trees ran the Red-breasted Nuthatches. Some of these latter were the brightest which I have ever seen of this species, their backs were not merely blue-gray but a bright blue.

Those birds which frequented the tree tops I could bring almost, it seemed, within reach by the aid of my 12 power glasses.

I have spent many delightful hours in the bush but none which I ever enjoyed more than those during which I sat on my ornithological throne.

WHEN THE BUDS UNFOLD.

HATTIE WASHBURN.

The birds are with us once again
And are singing as of old
For Spring is here with all her train
And the tender buds unfold.

The Robin from his perch on high
Sings to us his song of cheer,
'Mid meadow grasses brown and dry
Larks are calling far and near.

Silhouetted against the sky
We see the circling Crane,
The lone Killdeer sends down his cry,
A cry devoid of pain.

The Grackle with majestic mien
Fearless walks about our door,
The Bittern and wild Duck are seen
Along the ponds' grass grown shore.

Blackbirds, a melodious band,
Flaunt wings decked with red or gold,
The Veery trills a carol grand
When the springtime buds unfold.

The Kingbird has reclaimed his throne
On the blazed tree's topmost bough,
The Bob White calls in cheerful tone
From yonder hill's withered brow.

The Catbird sings once more his lay,
The Nuthatch climbs the tree
And woodlands ring throughout the day
With melody wild and free.

Flickers beat time upon the tree
While the songsters sing their lays
And gentle Spring from sorrow free
Smiles and blushes at their praise.

Loved orchestra of happy Spring
After winter's storm and cold
Peace and joy to all hearts they bring
When the tender buds unfold.



THE MYTH OF THE BLUEBIRD.

Once when Time was young, in rapturous
light,
A brownish bird soared in radiant light.
Lost in jubilant trills he flew so high
He brushed the dome of the deep blue sky,
Till his feathers glowed as the azure dome
Ere he winged again to his earthly home.
In his flashings downward, toward sunset
west,
The flaming rays tinted a ruddy breast.
In extatics he flew to nesting tree,
Homeing thoughts of love-ones, birdlings
three,
In tenderness he greeted joyous mate,
In true-love warblings he did relate
Of celestial flight, of his coat of blue,
Trilling "You shall wear sky colors too."

But her day was not as radiant fair
Wandering storm clouds drifted high in air
Subduing the rapture of throbbing throat,—
An unwonted pathos of minor note,
As singing she flew in ethereal flight
Soaring through vapors into azure light,
But in winging downward through clouds of
gray
The rain mists washed some bright blue away.
Tremble'y-wet, she pressed to mates ruddy
breast
Till warm tints spread to her rain-splashed
vest.
That is the reason of her duller hue
While mate is exuberant in brilliant blue.
O, never again will songbird soar as high,
O, never again through glorious sky.

ALICE B. WAITE.

South Lyme, Conn.

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We still have a few sets of the Journal complete, Vol. I to V, which we offer to those who wish to have the set complete. Full sets will soon be very scarce and hard to get. Not over a dozen complete sets are left. Tell your friends, whom you think would like the Journal complete, about it. First come first served. Order early so not to get left. Fifty cents per volume, \$2.50 for volumes I to V.

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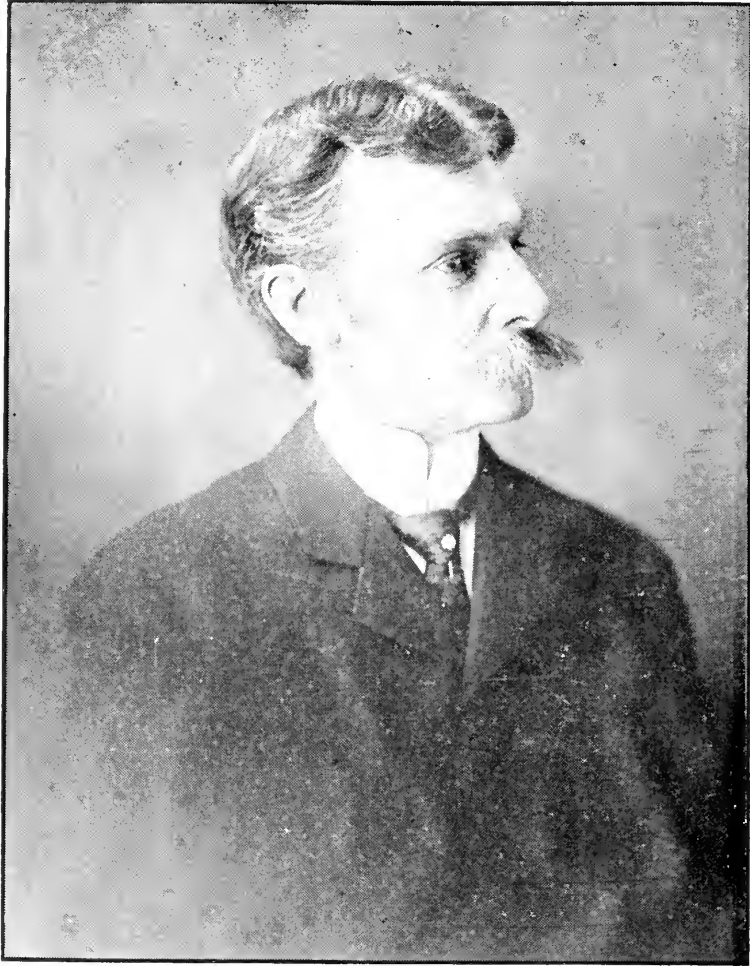
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VOL. VI.

FAIRFIELD, MAINE, APRIL, 1904.

NUMBER 2

The Maine Ornithological Society.

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Ninth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1904, at Bangor, Maine.

Entered as second class mail matter at Fairfield, Me.

Editorial Chat.

Bluebirds were seen the 27th.

Our readers will be glad to note the prospect of an early completion of Knights' Birds of Maine.

The spring arrivals are somewhat later than last year. Yet at this writing (Mch. 26th) a few have been seen. Crows have been seen in the interior for the past two weeks, and today, two song sparrows were seen and a flock of seven robins. The winter birds are staying with us yet. The 24th we saw a flock of pine grosbeaks in Solon. Several good sized flocks of siskins and redpolls have been seen during the week, also a few snowflakes. The horned larks are still numerous along the country roads in the Kennebec Valley. We anticipate there will be quite a number pairs remain to breed.

MAN'S RELATION TO THE LOWER ANIMALS.

Prof. J. Y. Stanton, Bates College.

[Read before the Maine Ornithological Society, Nov. 27, 1903, at Gardiner.]

In all the past centuries until the middle of the present, men in general treated animals as though they had neither feeling nor intelligence nor rights. Grave philosophers, the Cynics and Stoics, including the great Seneca, said that beasts have no thought or feeling, although they seemed to have. Is there any better proof that animals have intelligence and feeling than that they act as though they had? The great Descartes said that all the lower animals are mere unreasoning machines, that all their actions may be explained by the laws of mechanism. Could this man have had any acquaintance with a dog

or a horse? Have unreasoning machines instinct and affection?

Opposed to this shallow, mechanical theory of Descartes are Plato and Cicero. They said that the lower animals had will and were self-directing. During these somewhat barbarous centuries animals have had some great admirers and sympathizers: Homer, who glorified the horse and dog; Buddhists; Pythagoreans; Plato; Cicero, the only Roman as far as it is known, that ever protested against the cruelties of the amphitheater; Plutarch, who reproached Cato for refusing to allow the horse that had borne him in safety through many a bloody battle to be carried from Spain to Rome at the expense of the Government; St. Francis, of Assisi, the sole celebrated animal lover during the Dark Ages, from the 4th to the 14th century; Montaigne; Erasmus; Sir Thomas More; Shakspeare; Bacon, who said that there is implanted by nature in the heart of man a noble and excellent affection of mercy extending even to the brute creation, and that the more noble the mind, the more enlarged is this affection. More than two hundred years ago, Sir Matthew Hale said, in the Court of the King's Bench, "Justice is due from man even to these sensible creatures, that he take them for food sparingly; for necessity, not for luxury. Excessive and unreasonable use of the creature's labor is an injustice for which man must account. It is unlawful to destroy these creatures for recreation's sake." Pope said that a cat or a goose may consider man made for its service as well as man may consider a cat or a goose made for his. Cowper would not enter on his list of friends "the man who needlessly sets foot upon a worm." Burns, accidentally turning a little mouse out of its nest with his ploughshare, thus addressed, it calling it his fellow mortal:

"Wee, sleeKit, cow'r'in', tim'rous beastie,
Oh what a panic 's in thy breastie."

Condorcet said to his daughter, "Do not confine your sympathy to the sufferings of men. Let your humanity extend to animals. Do not make unhappy those that belong to you. Do not disdain to attend to their comfort. Be not indifferent to their gratitude and never put them to needless pain." Lord Erskine was the first man that

ever brought before a legislative body a bill for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Sir Walter Scott's love of animals is so well known that we need only mention his name. Byron's love of his dog Boatswain was intense. After a short life Boatswain died of madness. Byron attended him to the last, fearlessly wiping the poisonous virus from the animal's mouth with his hand. Byron erected a monument to his dog's memory, in the garden of Newstead Abbey, with the following inscription, "Near this spot are deposited the remains of one that had all the virtues of man without his vices." Wordsworth tells us

"Never to blend our pleasure or our pride
With sorrow of the meanest thing that feels,"

Lord Brougham accuses man of jealousy, considering it as an abridgment of his rights that the lower animals should have any consideration shown them. Daniel Webster asked, before he died, that all his cattle should be driven to his window that he might see them, and as they came, one by one, he called them each by name. We may also mention Voltaire, Rousseau, Jeremy Bentham, Cuvier, Humboldt and Coleridge.

These men will yet receive a great increment of honor because they saw so early the light of truth, sympathy and pity; because they were the Morning Stars, the Reformers before the Reformation, in this important subject. It has been reserved for the twentieth century to grant animals their rights and to complete the Reformation so nobly begun by Bergh and other philanthropists of the last half of the nineteenth century.

Man has dominion over other animals but his sovereignty is not absolute. It is limited by moral laws. Man must not interfere with the happiness and comfort of animals more than is consistent with their welfare and his limited rights. Happiness is the birthright of animals. Look at the happy and playful young and the quiet and peaceful mature animals. Man must not unnecessarily interfere with this happiness and peace if he would be innocent. All ill-treatment of animals is unnecessary. It is a well known economic fact that the domestic animals are most profitable to their owners when well fed and kindly treated.

I need not attempt to portray the

sufferings that the lower animals have endured at the hands of men. The whole animal creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. We are all more or less familiar with the terrible sufferings endured by the domestic animals in civilized united States in the nineteenth century. We can realize what it is in Uncivilized and barbarous countries, and what it was in the centuries that are past.

Jeremy Bentham, as far as I have discovered, was the first person that said that their capacity to suffer pain gave to animals rights which man must regard. Lord Erskine was probably the first to illustrate that mere ownership does not give a man a right to abuse one of his own animals. On Hamstead Heath, seeing a ruffian beating unmercifully a wretched horse, the Lord Chancellor interfered. The fellow said, "Can't I do as I like with my own?" "Yes," replied Erskine, "this stick is my own," and he gave the scamp a good thrashing. If animals have no future we are under the greater obligation to see to it that they have enjoyment here and now. What is the cause of the apathy of the Church, its wrong sentiments and unworthy conduct in regard to the lower animals? It has received no encouragement in this course from the Old Testament or from the words of Christ. "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are mine." This language implies that the birds of the air, the beasts of the forests and the domestic cattle are a noble possession of God and that they are under his protection. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." These words of Christ imply that a sparrow, two of the mworth only a farthing, cannot fall to the ground without the notice of God.

We ought not to expect any teaching on a subject like this from the Apostles and the early Evangelists. They were in middle life when they received the commission to proclaim the Gospel and they had a great work to perform. They were determined to know nothing among men except Christ and Him crucified.

But the later Christian teachers and preachers have had time and opportunity to preach and write on every conceivable ethical and religious subject. There is only one subject that they have almost entirely ignored,—the rights of the lower animals. That one fourth of the physical suffering in any community is caused by cruelty to animals is a moderate estimate. Prior to 1850 very few words had been spoken or written by Christian teachers to protest against this crime (for it has now been made a crime by nearly all civilized states and countries.) Sir Arthur Helps estimates that he has heard 1,390 sermons and he thinks that not one of them was on this or any kindred subject. With these Christian teachers, man was everything, beasts nothing. With them, domestic animals were things, not living and sensitive beings which could be made peaceful and happy by kind treatment and be made wretched by neglect and abuse. With them, man was made a little lower than the angels. In their minds, angels were not the spirits of the departed but were separate beings of great power and perfections.

This ill-balanced teaching was terrible in its consequences. Men became conceited, thinking that the sun, moon and stars were created for them, that every living thing was made for their service, not believing as we do that all the animal kingdom was created for its own enjoyment. Man's ill treatment of animals has reacted upon him with terrible force. It is estimated that in India with its population of 250 millions, where animal life is held sacred, there is not one fourth the amount of crime that there is in England with a population of only 20 millions. England's higher civilization would lead us to expect just the reverse. In proportion to the number of inhabitants, many times more crimes are committed in the United States than in Japan, whose animals are treated with great tenderness and care.

Great would be the consequences if every child in the State of Maine was taught from infancy, by example as well as precept, that the kitten and puppy were beautiful and precious creations of God that must be gently handled and loved. Since the impressions of childhood are so lasting we

could safely expect these children to become gentle men and women. Within fifty years, society would be so transformed that parents would be almost universally loved and cherished, schoolhouses and churches would be filled with those that were anxious to be taught and the murders in Maine would almost cease. Of course this state of things is somewhat ideal, for children cannot be perfectly protected from the corrupting influences of heredity and environment, but it suggests a most potent influence which parents, teachers and ministers can exert towards the reformation of society. Lessons of affection can be taught through the young of domestic animals better than in any other way, for they are the harmless playmates for which children have naturally great fondness.

The Bishop of Truro says that Ruskin believed that the pets of the child were its educators and none who had witnessed the relation between children and animals could doubt it. The Bishop further says, "A few years ago I could not bear to have dogs about the house but now one is my close companion. Dogs teach children manners and to tell the whole truth they teach me." Jeremy Taylor in his Holy Living says: "Let your conversation with the creatures (animals) lead you unto the Creator." Again give your attention to the testimony of Rev. Samuel Wilberforce, when Bishop of Winchester. "If children are not brought up to care for the brute creation, they will soon cease to care for human beings."

I will illustrate, by two notable examples, the sensitiveness of childhood and its disinclination to cruelty to animals. When eight years old, Theodore Parker was playing about his father's house and seeing a small turtle he took up a stick to strike. Suddenly dropping the stick he ran into the house saying, "Mother, I was about to strike a turtle when a voice spoke to me." His mother said, "My son, it was the voice of conscience." When ten years old, Turgenieff, the celebrated Russian novelist, went bird-hunting with his father. As they were passing through a stubble a golden pheasant rose in front of the boy and he raised his gun and fired. The bird fell and fluttered to its nest where its

young were huddled. While the son was looking on, the little head of the mother dropped and only her dead body was left to shield her nestlings. The horror-stricken son cried, "Father, father, what have I done?" "Well done, my son," the father said, "you will soon be a fine sportsman." "Never, father; never, never again shall I destroy any living creature." It is said that this incident awakened sentiments in Turgenieff that tinged all his writings. In passing I might add that the greatest of the Russian novelists, Tolstoi, holds advanced views on this subject. He says "I talk to my horses; I do not beat them." I am sure that all present believe that the lower animals have rights that we are bound to respect and that cruelty to them dulls the moral sensibilities and brutalizes individuals and nations.

At this point certain problems arise, some of them difficult to solve.

1st. Is the domestication of animals an infringement upon their rights? I am sure that it is not. Animals in the wild state have, at times, a struggle for existence. They suffer from hunger and cold. When domesticated, if properly cared for, they enjoy to a fuller extent the blessings of life. We cannot see how man could have risen from savagery to the civilized state without domesticated animals.

When our forefathers landed at Plymouth they found the natives of New England four thousand years behind Europeans in civilization. They had advanced hardly beyond the stone age. This backwardness is attributable in a great degree to the fact that the natives possessed no animals except the dog, while the Europeans possessed, besides the dog, six animals of first-rate economic importance, the ox, horse, ass, sheep, goat and hog. At this time all North and South America held in domestication only three quadrupeds, the dog, llama and Peruvian Guinea pig. Perhaps in all the New World, these were the only animals, except the wild turkey, capable of domestication. At any rate, since the Europeans settled this country they have not succeeded in domesticating any other of our native animals. It is a significant fact that the ox, horse, ass, camel, sheep and goat are natives of Asia and at least four of them, the ox, horse, sheep and goat, are natives of

the mountainous region of the central zone of Asia, where man probably first appeared on earth and where in early times the human species multiplied and advanced far beyond the barbarous state. These domesticated animals furnished meat, milk and material for clothing, bore burdens and drew the plough, enabling the shepherds and herdsmen to become agriculturalists.

2nd. Is the killing of birds to be used as mere ornaments a violation of animal rights? A fair-minded and innocent person can answer this question in but one way. The collectors of birds, birds' plumes and wings, for millinery purposes are simply butchers and ought to be imprisoned, and the wholesale dealers in plumes are abettors. Their business, if continued, will cause the extinction of many species of our most beautiful birds, for the region where some of these birds live is very limited. One of the humming-birds is found only in the crater of an extinct volcano and in its immediate neighborhood. Its tiny throat is so fiery that Mr. Gould says it seems to have caught upon its throat the last spark of the volcano before it was extinguished. Our own humming-bird, the Ruby-throat, rears its young here in the Northern States, migrates in early autumn and leaves our country for Mexico and Central America. Who could cause the death of this tiny creature and wear it as an ornament, which had survived the perils of this long migration twice a year for the sake of passing a short summer in this region with us? Who could be so cruel and inhospitable? But we must presume that the milliners and their patrons, the wearers of these birds and plumes, are innocent or guilty, at most, of only ignorance or carelessness. The suppression of this wrong lies with those who are generally ready to co-operate in every good work.

3d. Ought animals to be used as food? Doubtless we all wish we could be vegetarians. Scientists think that our teeth and digestive organs imply that we are to be omnivorous. The fact that man could eat meat greatly aided him in his early struggle for existence. If animal food is necessary for man's health, success and improvement, we must answer this question in the affirmative.

Of course the transportation and slaughtering of animals ought to be conducted under the strictest governmental supervision.

4th. Is vivisection a violation of animal rights? It is a shameful violation as it has sometimes been practiced. The practice of vivisection should also be under the strictest supervision of the government. Licenses to practice it ought to be granted to the great scientists only, whose observations will be likely to lead to important results in alleviating man's sufferings. It ought not to be indulged in to verify well-known facts or to amuse a class of college or medical students.

5th. We have one of these very difficult problems here in the State of Maine. We congratulate ourselves that Maine, with its seaside, its lakes, rivers and forests, is the best health resort in all the known world and we heartily welcome to this sanitarium all that will come. If our legislature should prohibit altogether the killing of the moose, caribou and deer and allow these large animals to multiply for a period of years at least, the moose would be saved from extinction, for Maine is its last stronghold and under the present state regulations its numbers are diminishing, the caribou, which is now disappearing from the State, would remain with us, and the summer visitors would see the deer feeding among the domestic cattle. Let the legislature afford every facility to visitors to visit our forests in September and October, by furnishing licensed and thoroughly competent guides, as now, and by increasing the food supply through the multiplication of the fishes in all our rivers and lakes by artificial propagation. Fishing and pretending to fish have been a delightful amusement in all ages. The prohibition of the killing of moose, deer and caribou would keep away the amateur hunters who cannot distinguish deer from men and domestic cattle. It would keep away butchers that visit our woods merely for the sake of killing something. Our woods would be even more attractive to clergymen, lawyers, physicians, teachers and business men who go there to see the wild animals in their native haunts and to study their habits; to see nature in its most somber, mysterious and im-

pressive forms; to recover health and strength by fishing, boating and wandering in the forests. These men return at night to the camp, they eat a simple and wholesome meal, they tell stories, they lie down to sleep on the sweet-scented boughs, to be awakened at midnight by the weird cry of the loon on the lake or by the hooting of the owl, to have their imaginations aroused, to entertain noble and serious thoughts. At last they return home to their several callings, invigorated in body and mind. Is not this the use to which Maine should devote its forests?

I wish now to offer briefly a few reasons why animals are very interesting to us.

1st. Their mysterious relationship to us excites our interest. We belong to the same great genealogical tree with them. They are our humble relations. Although they have received noble and beautiful endowments we still are compelled to sympathize with them because of their lowly estate. Some of them are dependent on us for their happiness and well being. Our conduct and feelings towards animals have greatly improved within the last forty years, since the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, in 1859. Greater advance has been made in this respect in these forty years than in the eighteen christian centuries previous to this time. This great original work dealing with fundamental principles has changed the current of our thoughts. Our conception of God's infinite power and goodness has become broader and clearer. The fact that God is the author of all life has become more real to us. We see that the tiniest thing that breathes has endowments that no one but God could bestow. All life has become more sacred. With one exception all the societies that have been formed, all the magazines that have been published and all the legislative enactments for the prevention of cruelty to animals have a date subsequent to the publication of the *Origin of Species*. In this country the first law for the prevention of cruelty to animals was passed by the New York legislature in 1865. The first society was established also in New York in 1868. Now every state in the Union

has a law to protect animals. In 1887, her Jubilee year, Queen Victoria wrote to the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as follows, "I notice with real pleasure the growth of humane feelings toward the lower animals. No civilization is complete which does not include the dumb and defenceless of God's creatures within the sphere of charity and mercy."

2nd. Animals ought to be interesting to us because of their physical endowments. I must treat this part of the subject in a very cursory and fragmentary manner. It is probable that every species of vertebrate animals surpasses man in one or more physical endowments. Some species surpass him in strength, many in beauty and gracefulness of form and many in activity and swiftness of motion.

All are equal to man in the perfect adaptation of their bodies to their condition and manner of life. Nature has endowed all animals with clothing of wool, hair, fur, feathers, etc. It is recorded that our first parents, early in their history, discovered their deficiencies in this respect. This animal clothing is incomparable for lightness and warmth, is adapted to the habitat of the animal and is generally very beautiful. Charles Reade in the "Cloister and the Hearth" makes the Pope of Rome in the ceremony of blessing animals say, "See their myriad forms, their lovely hair and eyes, their grace, and of some the power and majesty, the colors of others brighter than roses or rubies."

The human infant is of all absorbing interest in what it is to become, because of its possibilities. The young animal is generally delightful in what it now is; many are graceful and some are very picturesque. Mari-
anne North, the celebrated flower painter, pronounces the young camel the most picturesque of all living things. If Miss North is correct in this, the young moose and the young giraffe must be good seconds. When the first young giraffe was brought to Paris in 1827 the populace went wild with excitement. Men, women and children of all classes wore gloves, waistcoats and gowns of the colors of the giraffe and the merchants who first put on the market dress goods of the giraffe pattern be-

came rich. The giraffe has a small body, long legs, very long neck and small head with eyes of wonderful beauty which are much larger than those of any other quadruped.

Animal temper is naturally pacific, equable and mild. Animals love society. A New England hillside pasture with its herd of domestic cattle of different races and of various colors, some feeding and some quietly resting, presents to the eye a picture at once most peaceful and most pleasing. What a grand and heart-stirring spectacle was presented by a herd of buffalo consisting of thousands of individuals moved by one impulse, tearing over a western prairie, turning aside for neither river nor precipice lying in its course.

Passing to animals of a lower class we come to the birds, of which we have here in America an entire family of the most beautiful,—the humming birds, consisting of about 450 species, with only one in the United States this side of the Mississippi, the Ruby-throat. You can discover what naturalists have thought of their beauty by the names which they have given them,—the Amethyst, Crimson Topaz, Ruby-throat, Sapphire-throated, Splendid Coquette, Sappho Comet, Sun Gem, Chimborazian Hill Star, Golden Train-bearer. "Of all animated beings," says Buffon, "this is the most elegant in form and splendid in coloring." Precious stones and metals artificially polished can never be compared to this jewel of nature. Lady Emeline Stuart Wortley calls them these Diamond Dew Drops on Wings, these Sylphs, these Visions, these Rainbow Atoms.

The humming birds scarcely surpass two or three other families. The sun-birds, the birds of Paradise, the peacock, and some of the trogons almost rival them. Some of the pheasants and fruit pigeons are hardly inferior to the peacocks. Many others which are less beautiful are most picturesque. What can be more picturesque than family groups of tall and elegant storks perched upon the chimney tops of Holland and Southern Germany? Audubon tries in vain to describe his feelings when he beheld the flamingos at the Florida Keys. The rough Spanish sailors were so filled with emotion that they were moved to tears when they saw at a distance on

the Cuban shores the scarlet flamingos like soldiers in a line. No boy that has watched a flock of wild geese with outstretched neck cleaving the air with that mysterious wedge can ever forget it. Who ever saw a sight more beautiful than the snow white swan on St. Mary's Lake, "floating double, swan and shadow." What man with all his science and machinery has been able to fly like a bird? even to discover how the huge condor can float in the rarified air of the Andes and pass from one aerial plane to another without flapping its wings.

Passing still on to a lower class of animals we come to the butterflies and moths. In Brazil, in the Eastern Archipelago, including the Philippines, and in other tropical countries, where only man is vile, the splendor of these airy creatures cannot be conceived by us who are only acquainted with those of New England. Naturalists, collecting in these countries, after hunting for butterflies during the day have seen at night, in their dreams and excited imaginations, visions of such gorgeous butterflies as are not found this side of the Celestial Region.

3d. Animals ought to be interesting to us because of their intelligence. Without expressing any opinion as to whether mind in the lower animals differs from that of man in extent only or in quality as well as extent, one need not hesitate to speak of the intelligence of animals. Instinct is the involuntary prompting to action. Within its limits it is uniform in its teaching. It admits of no discrimination, no forethought, no voluntary application of means to ends. Instinct is inborn and it makes no progress. Intelligence is improved by experience. I do not think that any careful observer doubts that at times, in exigencies, all the higher animals employ something higher than mere instinct. Those who deny intelligence to animals must ignore at the outset the bees and ants, which are organized into well arranged and well governed communities. I will commence with the birds.

An oriole's nest, described by Dr. C. C. Abbott, had been suspended from the delicate branches of a weeping willow. These being found too slight for the weight of the nest when

occupied, another branch about a foot distant was brought into use, as an additional support, by carefully interweaving a long string with the body of the nest, then carrying it up and attaching it by a number of turns and a knot to the branch above. Thus secured, the nest sustained the weight of the young when fully grown and both the parent birds. If one does not agree with Dr. Abbott that there is here an indication of forethought he cannot fail to see that judgment is shown in the employment of means for the accomplishment of the end. From repeated reports of competent observers I infer that this is not an uncommon device with birds of this species.

While Edward, the naturalist, was loitering one day upon the beach near Banff, on the Moray Firth, he was tempted to shoot a tern which in company with others was sporting in the air, occasionally flying down to the water for food. The bird which was wounded fell screaming into the water. The disabled bird began to drift helplessly toward the shore where Mr. Edward was standing. "While matters were in this position," says the naturalist, "I beheld to my utter astonishment two of the unwounded terns take hold of their disabled comrade, one at each wing, lift him out of the water and bear him out seaward. They were followed by two other birds. After being carried six or seven yards he was let gently down again, when he was taken up in a similar manner by the two which had been hitherto inactive. In this way they continued to carry him alternately, until they had conveyed him to a rock at a considerable distance, upon which they landed him in safety. Having recovered my self-possession I made toward the rock, wishing to obtain the prize which had been so unceremoniously snatched from my grasp; I was observed however by the terns and instead of four, I had in a short time a whole swarm about me. On my near approach to the rock I once more beheld two of them take hold of the wounded bird as they had done already and bear him out to sea in triumph." There is no reason to doubt that the facts are as given above, for Thomas Edward was a keen and experienced observer and a

highly trustworthy man. The rescue of the disabled bird by its faithful companions could not have been better directed by the human mind and more sympathy could not have been shown by the human heart. Doubtless instinct is sufficient for the every day business of life but it is entirely inadequate in an emergency like this, arising it may be only once in a life time.

The lammergeyer, the huge eagle vulture of Europe and Asia, the Os-sifrage of Scripture, carries in its talons large bones to an immense height, and breaks them by letting them fall upon stones below in order to get at the marrow contained in them. The story that the poet Æschylus while sitting on a stone outside the city of Gela, in Sicily, was killed by a tortoise which an eagle dropped upon his head, is capable of explanation by a reference to this habit of the bird.

I will give in his own words an account of a Boston naturalist's hair-breadth escape from the fate of the poet Æschylus. "Another instance of the crow's intelligence came under my observation as I was walking among the crumbling arches of Caracalla's Baths, in Rome, in April, 1882. When near the wall a stone nearly as large as my fist fell at my feet. Fearing a recurrence of what I supposed was an accident of perishing masonry, our party went further toward the centre of the area. A second and third fell near us; and looking up I saw, circling above our heads, crows, one of which dropped a fourth stone from his claws. It seems that we had been strolling too near their nests in the walls; and they took this method to drive us away—a very effectual one, as a stone of that size, falling from the height of sixty feet, was an exceedingly dangerous missile and perhaps only prevented from being fatal by the failure of the bird to make allowance for the impetus of its own motion. The aim was accurate and the discharge right overhead but as both we and the bird were moving it fortunately missed its mark."

A friendly critic suggests that it is a case of mistaken identity on the part of Prof. Kneeland, since crows would have used their beaks instead of their claws for carrying stones. It does not seem reasonable that this

clever family is confined to the use of its beak. An individual of any species of the crow race is doubtless capable of an act like this, for there is in every branch of it an abundance of intelligence and humor. But I am suspicious that in this case the culprits were jackdaws. In March and April of 1875, I saw jackdaws building their nests in the ruined walls of the Baths of Caracalla. They constantly kept up their cheerful and noisy cry as they went in and out. But we cannot be equally sure that the jackdaws were alarmed at the presence of Dr. Kneeland's party for their nests were located high, in places quite inaccessible. Probably the mischievous daws were in sport and when they saw the visitors enter the area of the Baths they took the stones from the top of the arches with the roguish but innocent intention of discovering which could drop his stone nearest the mark without hitting. In a stanza of Cowper's translation of a Latin ode written by Vincent Bourne there is the following worthy tribute to the jackdaw:

Thrice happy bird! I too have seen
Much of the vanities of men;
And sick of having seen 'em,
Would cheerfully these limbs resign
For such a pair of wings as thine,
And such a head between 'em.

I will close this division of my subject by relating, on the highest authorities, two or three instances of unusual sagacity shown by animals belonging to the highest class.

When Sir James Emerson Tennent was in Ceylon as Colonial Secretary, riding one day horseback along a road he suddenly met an elephant alone, bearing a stick of timber on his tusks. At the sight of the elephant the horse stopped and could not be urged forward. The elephant stopped a moment, then quietly laid the piece of timber lengthwise on one side of the road. Then it turned and went some distance in the opposite direction and backed into a jungle, concealing itself all but its trunk. The horse went willingly on its way until it spied the elephant's trunk, when it stopped again. The elephant backed further into the jungle until he was entirely concealed and the horse went shying by. After a short time Tennent turned around to see what the elephant was doing. It came out of the jungle,

took up the piece of timber and went on its way.

The bovine genus is generally thought to be one of the least intelligent of all the races of the larger animals, which is by no means conceded by those best acquainted with our domestic cattle. Last summer during my visit to Sandwich, my brother and I one evening went to the pasture for his cow. He was tired and I hastened ahead to let the cow out of the lane into the road. I opened the gate and the cow passed by me and I followed her along towards home. When the cow met my brother and was just passing him, she turned square about and looked first at him, then at me, several times. After waiting a little she turned slowly back towards home. She seemed to come to a conclusion and say to herself, "They are both old, have white hair and resemble each other but, as I looked from one to the other, I saw a difference. One of them is my old friend, and the other is a stranger."

The horse is the most highly endowed of all the animals with which we are acquainted, with one exception. Its services to man are most valuable and varied and they are often performed amid the greatest difficulties and hardships. It is at the mercy of all kinds of owners and drivers. Its hardships are often as great when in the hands of a kind but eccentric man as when in the hands of a cruel one. Its sufferings are too great to dwell on. Its virtues and intelligence are too well known to need illustration and I will leave the horse after briefly relating a story of a New England Divine of the eighteenth century and his horse. The dear Doctor was scriptural in his method of feeding his horse. A day of plenty was likely to be followed by a lean day. The doctor rode horseback when he went to make his calls. Sometimes this absent-minded pastor put on the saddle hind part fore. On the first occasion of the occurrence of this slight mistake the horse was too proud to set out in this fashion and he was fractious and balky but he soon learned that the eccentric doctor was incorrigible and he quietly went on as always before. The horse soon learned at what houses the doctor called Monday, where he called Tuesday, where Wed-

nesday and so on. Then the horse took charge in this matter and allowed his master to keep to his musings and to the preparation of his sermons. When the horse stopped at a house the pastor dismounted, left the horse unhitched, went in and made his call. In due time he came out and mounted, and the horse took him to the next house and so on until the calls were all made when the horse took his rider home in safety. Sometimes the doctor saddled his horse, led it up to the front door and went into the house and forgot himself. After waiting a proper time the horse set out alone to make the pastoral calls. It went to all the houses in order, stopping a regular time at each and then returned. This was a delightful change to all the boys and girls who could not give their stern pastor a satisfactory account of their state of mind or of their conduct. So the doctor and his horse jogged on, dividing the pastoral duties, until they reached old age with minds unimpaired.

"The dog," says Baron Cuvier, "is the first, the easiest, the completest, the most singular and the most useful conquest ever made by man." He was man's companion in prehistoric times. He has been his companion in all parts of the world ever inhabited by man. It is doubtful if man could have risen above the savage state without the dog. He assisted him in conquering and domesticating the other animals. "Without the shepherd's dog," says Hogg, so well known as the Ettrick Shepherd, "the whole of the mountainous land in Scotland would not be worth a sixpence. It would require more hands to manage a stock of sheep, gather them from the hills, force them into houses and folds and drive them to markets than the profits of the whole stock would be capable of maintaining. In the management of sheep a Scotch collie is more than equal to twenty men." In some parts of South America, where there are no shepherds, dogs act in their place and take charge of the flocks. Thus early in the morning the dogs drive the sheep from the fold, conduct them to the plain, accompany them the whole day and keep them well together, defending them from beasts of prey, voracious birds and from

man himself. At sunset they conduct the sheep back again to the fold when they lay themselves down on the ground and pass the night in watchful care. In the Museum at Berne there is the mounted body of a St. Bernard dog celebrated for having saved forty lives in twelve years.

Of dogs, Sirrah is one of the best known, not because he was superior in intelligence to any one of a thousand others but because his great virtues have been celebrated by his owner, the poet Hogg, in his Shepherd's Calendar. When Hogg was fifteen years old he was sent with his dog Sirrah on a strange errand. I will allow the poet to relate the incident in his own language. "I was sent to a place in Tweeddale, called Stanhope, to bring back a wild ewe that had strayed from home. The place lay at a distance of fifteen miles and my way to it was over steep hills and athwart deep glens. There was no path and neither Sirrah nor I had ever travelled that way before. When I left the people of the house, Mr. Tweedie, the farmer, said to me, "Do you really suppose that you will drive that sheep over the hills and out through the midst of all the sheep in the country?" I said I would try to do it. "Then let me tell you," said he, "you may as well try to travel to yon sun." Our way, as I said, lay over wild hills and through the middle of flocks of sheep. I seldom got sight of the ewe for she was sometimes a mile before me, sometimes two; but Sirrah kept her in command the whole way, never suffered her to mix with the other sheep, nor, as far as I could judge, ever to deviate twenty yards from the track by which he and I went the day before." Hogg inquired at two shepherds' cottages whether a dog and a sheep had been seen. They had not. All along the route which the dog and sheep had taken, on both sides, he found the great flocks of sheep quiet and undisturbed. When Hogg reached home there were the dog and sheep lying near each other resting after their long tramp.

On another occasion Hogg had charge of several hundred lambs. He had only a boy and his dog to assist him. It was necessary to watch the lambs day and night to prevent them from running away in search of their

dams. One night they broke loose and in the effort that was made to stop them they broke into three divisions, one of which went north, another south and another westward. Hogg pursued one division and the boy another and Sirrah immediately started off but, on account of the darkness of the night and the blackness of the moor, Hogg could not tell in what direction. Hogg and the boy met at daybreak and neither had discovered the least trace of the lambs. They went in haste to their master and informed him that they had lost his whole flock of lambs and knew not what had become of them. On their way home they discovered a body of lambs at the bottom of a deep ravine and the indefatigable Sirrah standing in front of them. At first they thought he had charge of only one division. To their utter astonishment they soon found that not one lamb of the whole was wanting. When Sirrah became old, Hogg sold him for three guineas and told him to follow his new master. He obeyed. The old dog loved his old home and frequently visited it by night but he never recognized Hogg afterwards and resorted to all sorts of devices not to meet him.

Although the various dogs of Sir Walter Scott, and Dr. John Brown, Boatswain, of Lord Byron, and thousands of other dogs are equally interesting and scarcely less intelligent than Sirrah, I have for a purpose that will appear later, spent all the time that I have to spare on this one. Intelligence in these celebrated dogs was inborn. It matured with their years, as does that of man. These dogs were not trained. Intelligence differs from docility. Dogs can be taught anything.

Plutarch witnessed the performance of a trained dog before the Emperor Vespasian in the theatre of Marcellus at Rome. One part of the performance was to counterfeit being poisoned by eating a piece of bread. Having swallowed the bread he assumed the appearance of trembling and staggering and, at length, stretching himself out, he lay as if dead and allowed himself to be dragged from place to place as the part of the play demanded. When it was time for him to come to life he began to stir himself, at first, very gently as if wak-

ing from a deep sleep; then he raised his head and afterwards, to the astonishment of the spectators, he rose and walked up to one of the actors, jumped up at him and seemed overjoyed. All who were present, the Emperor as well as the rest, were aroused to the highest pitch of enthusiasm and delight.

Dogs frequently bear the annoyance of children even with more patience than affectionate parents. The superiority of dogs to most men in affection, in steadfastness and loyalty to friends led a French Cynic to say "The more I see of men, the better I like dogs." It is not a rare occurrence for a man from some selfish motive to injure a friend. No instance is recorded, I think, in which a dog has been guilty of this wrong intentionally.

Senator Vest once dropped into court in a little Missouri town, where a man was suing a neighbor for shooting his dog. The lawyers for the prosecution persuaded Senator Vest to speak in behalf of their client, and this is what he said:

"Gentlemen of the Jury: The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journeys through the heavens.

"If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes the master in its embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his

paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death."

It is alleged that, after this, some of the jurors were anxious to hang the defendant.

Lastly, animals ought to be especially interesting to us because they are probably immortal.

I will offer a few reasons for believing that animals may be immortal; first, on the supposition that all men are immortal; then, on the supposition that man's immortality is conditional.

Of course, a proposition like this will always find many opposers. Our natural pride rebels against the idea that animals are to share immortality with us. This belief is very old. It was clearly stated more than twenty-three centuries ago. This opinion has been held by many distinguished men and women whom we greatly admire. Tholuck believed that the kingdom of God will exist on the earth and be peopled by the entire animal creation, freed from the material body, as did Luther and many other German theologians and philosophers. Tholuck seems to base his belief, in part, at least, upon an interpretation of Romans VIII, 19-23. Prof. Hitchcock remarks upon this interpretation, in his *Religion of Geology*. "This exposition," he says, "surely carries with it a great deal of naturalness and probability. Both Bishop Butler and John Wesley believed in the immortality of animals and they both express confidence in the idea that animals in the future will arrive at great attainments and become rational and moral agents. Bishop Butler says that men endowed with capacities for religion and virtue are without the use of them in infancy and childhood and that a great part of the human species go out of the present world before they come to the exercise of these capacities in any degree at all. Adam Clarke gives ten reasons for belief in the immortality of animals.

Besides these mentioned above, the following are some of the celebrated men and women who have expressed their belief in the immortality of the lower animals in most emphatic language, some of whom I shall later have occasion to quote: Plato, Cicero, Leibnitz, Jeremy Taylor, Max

Muller, Bishop Ellicott, Sir Charles Lyell, Agassiz, Charles Kingsley, Lamartine, Mary Russell Mitford, Mary Somerville, Dr. John Brown, Olive Thorne Miller, Southey, Rev. F. O. Morris, and Rev. J. G. Wood.

Of these there are three classes. First, the philosophers,—Plato, Cicero, Bishop Butler and Leibnitz, who maintain that there is the same reason for believing in the immortality of animals as in that of man. Their belief is based on the fact that man has a twofold nature, that he has a body and a soul; that the material body perishes at death and that the soul survives; that the soul cannot perish, that immortality is inherent in its nature; that the lower animals have this duality; that they are body and soul. What is the soul? It is that which thinks, feels and wills; it is that which is intelligent and affectionate. We naturally infer that the intelligence and affection which the dog possesses do not pertain to matter but to soul. But we hesitate to believe that animal love and animal intelligence are the same in their nature as human love and human intelligence.

I wish to quote a few authorities on this point. Wordsworth called his dog Mercy, "A soul of love." Dr. John Brown beautifully says, "Are not these dumb friends of ours persons rather than things. Is not their soul ampler, as Plato would say, than their body and contains rather than is contained? Is not what lives and wills in them and is affectionate, as spiritual and immaterial, as truly removed from mere flesh and bones as that soul which is the proper self of their master? And when we look each other in the face, as I look in Dick's who is lying in his corner by the fireside, and he in mine, is it not as much the dog within looking out from his eyes—the windows of the soul—as it is the man from mine?"

"Knowest thou not," says Milton, "their knowledge and their ways? They also know and reason not contemptibly." And Aristotle, "There are between animals and man faculties in common, near and analogous."

"The camel driver has his thoughts and the camel, he has his thoughts" is an Arabian proverb. Every horseman of experience and observation

knows that his horse has thoughts and that it often reads correctly the thoughts of its driver. We might have an American proverb,—horse sense is good sense.

Science teaches that man is an animal, that he is intimately related to the other animals, and that he has been slowly evolved from them. When man first appeared on earth he was little better than a savage brute and his immediate progenitors were absolutely such. Science teaches that not only man's body but his higher nature has been evolved from the lower animals. Did the earliest man have a soul and were his immediate progenitors without it? Quite a portion of the human race has made little advance from the savage state. The inhabitants of the Andaman Islands, the natives of Australia and the Bushmen of South Africa are apparently inferior to the highest of the lower animals and are not as interesting.

Missionaries do not find in these races of men the noble instincts, the affection and faithfulness to friends that some of the higher animals possess. To compare civilized man with the noblest of the lower animals let us take concrete examples,—the poet Hogg and his dog Sirrah. Consider the dog's remarkable efficiency in the service of his master. According to the testimony of the poet the dog was equal to twenty men in a most difficult employment. Recall to mind the two surprising feats that have been described. This capability was not all physical. Great intelligence, judgment, forethought and mental activity were needed and must have been employed. This efficiency was not merely physical and mental. It was moral. Dogs like ease as much as men do. What kept the dog up to such intensity of earnestness in his master's service? Was it not love of his master and loyalty to his commands? What have we to say of the poet in comparison? There was nothing in the poet to respond to this surpassing affection and faithfulness on the part of the dog. The poet sold for three guineas a most faithful friend in his old age. You will remember that the dog never recognized Hogg after this transaction. The dog's righteous indignation was almost sublime. Which

of the twain was more worthy of immortality? One was pure and perfect of his kind and the other was just what he was. The question arises with great force. Can love, God's very nature, the definition of Himself which he has chosen above all others, ever really be lost? That many animals possess it in a remarkable degree cannot be denied. Agassiz exclaims, "The nobility of the dog must be immortal." Leibnitz writes, "I found at last how the souls of animals and their sensations do not at all interfere with the immortality of human souls; on the contrary, nothing serves better to establish our natural immortality than to believe that all souls are imperishable."

The second class of believers in the immortality of animals consists of naturalists and animal lovers in general, such as Agassiz and Olive Thorne Miller, who think, if animals are mortal, the future life would lack something to make it as complete, as satisfying and as happy as they had supposed it would be from the promises of the New Testament. The important work of many naturalists in which they had innocently and seriously engaged while here would be left a fragment and be almost in vain.

The third class that believe in the immortality of animals offer most serious and unanswerable objections to the theory that all animal life ends here. Mrs. Somerville, in her eighty-ninth year, wrote as follows: "If animals have no future the existence of many is most wretched. Multitudes are starved, cruelly beaten and loaded during life. Many die under a barbarous vivisection. I cannot believe that any creature was created for uncompensated misery; it would be contrary to the attribute of God's mercy and justice." Dr. Adam Clarke says, "That animals have no compensation here, their afflictions, labors and death prove. It is therefore obvious that the gracious purpose of God has not been fulfilled in them; and that as they have not lost their happiness through their own fault, both the benevolence and justice of God are bound to make them reparation. Hence it is reasonable to conclude that as, from the present constitution of things, they cannot have the happiness designed for them

in this state they must have it in another."

There is a growing belief, I think, that man's immortality is conditional; that the New Testament does not teach that all men are immortal and that some passages seem to teach something quite different. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life; and few there be that find it." Immortality is not a natural possession but something that must be won. A very able and interesting work has been recently published on this subject by Rev. Dr. McConnell, called the "Evolution of Immortality."

There is another theory, that man at the outset of life has a soul but that it may die within him; that if it is to be kept it must be cherished and nourished; that evolution is more extended in its operations than we have commonly supposed; that only the fittest survive death and enter upon an immortal existence. According to either of these theories, men and animals alike must perish if they are not fitted to enjoy something more than a mere physical existence. I say men and animals alike, for God is impartial and his laws are uniform in their operation. I do not wish to appear dogmatic. In regard to the subject of immortality I have enough doubts and fears. But to me it seems most reasonable and natural that man's future abode is this earth and that those who choose it, will not be deprived of the association with animals, which has added greatly to their happiness while in this life.

I will close with two brief quotations. I find the following in a sermon preached by the Rev. Canon Birch in St. Stephen's Church, Westminster; "You cannot have your attention called to the claims of animals upon your kindness, your interest in them increased, without a general expansion of your feelings. It will increase your regard for your fellow-men and your desire to avoid whatever would injure them. It will give strength to that lesson which in substance is taught us throughout the gospel—Reverence for what is above us and kindness for what is around

us, tenderness and humanity for what is beneath us." The following is from a well known poem by Coleridge:

He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

ATTRACTING BIRDS IN WINTER.

Our northern winter is a season to be tided over and whatever helps to relieve the monotony of this season by furnishing agreeable and harmless amusement is a matter for which we should feel thankful.

As a means of doing this and of awakening an interest in bird life among those who seem to have no inclination to study them I know of nothing so effective as that of attracting the winter birds about our homes by offering them food. Furthermore, it affords the best opportunities for the bird student to closely observe and photograph certain species such as Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, and others less common.

I usually begin attracting the resident birds to my home during October and November by furnishing them a supply of food consisting of suet, bones with meat and gristle on them, raw pork rinds, crushed buckwheat, weed seed, and sunflower seeds.

The first birds to visit the lunch counter during the autumn of 1903, was a family of four chickadees which have remained about my home during the winter. This little family finally became so tame and confiding that they would alight upon my hand and eat from it. White-breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, and hairy woodpeckers, frequently visited the branch upon which the food was placed. Two bluejays came occasionally and would carry away large pieces of the suet. I placed some nuts in one of the cups which they soon found. Tree sparrows, gold finches, redpolls and juncos came during the winter months to eat the seeds which I had separated from grain and scattered beneath the branch.

A good supply of food was placed upon the branch, as may be seen by the illustrations, in order that several birds might eat together. But re-

gardless of the plentiful supply the casual observer might easily notice the selfish spirit that dominated these pensioners of my bounty. The chickadees drove each other away—although they occasionally ate together upon the pork rinds as shown in the picture. There appeared to be a natural reverence for size among the different species. The nuthatches chased the chickadees and while they were at it sometimes a woodpecker would arrive and take possession of the branch. Of the different kinds of food furnished, the woodpeckers and nuthatches appeared to prefer the suet.

By the use of twine I hung pieces of suet four or five inches below the branch. This arrangement soon became a study with the woodpeckers as to how they could reach it. At first they would alight upon the branch from which the suet was suspended, and by hanging to the under side try every way to reach it. One seized the string attached to a piece of suet and shook it with his bill as if he hoped to displace the suet. But finally they would fly from the branch and alight upon the suet, to which they would cling with their long toes and when it was of sufficient length they would make use of their stiff pointed tail feathers for a prop as when upon a tree trunk. If the piece of suet was too short to allow this use of the tail they would bring it against the end of the suet in such a position as oftentimes to be at a right angle with the body. As soon as the woodpecker alighted on the suet his peculiar movements would cause it to turn rapidly until the string became tightly twisted when the movement was reversed. They appeared to enjoy this "merry go 'round" in which they frequently indulged, taking, occasionally as they rode, a large piece of suet, which seemed to afford them a double pleasure. The various positions of the woodpeckers while making these revolutions and their strange behavior in endeavoring to adapt themselves to conditions to which they were evidently unaccustomed was altogether the most amusing and interesting feature of my observations.

The industrious little chickadees preferred the raw pork rinds to the suet. These were cut in strips two or

three inches wide and about ten inches in length and one end fastened to the branch with tacks. The rinds soon freeze and the chickadees enjoy hammering them for the little meat they get much as a dog enjoys gnawing a bone with little or no meat on it. However, nothing seems to tempt the appetites of these birds like the seeds of the sunflower. The quantity of these seeds which a chickadee will eat during a single day well illustrates its capacity for food. They test every seed by squeezing it in their little bills and when a perfect one is found they fly to a tree and holding the seed between their toes and the branch, hammer it until its covering can be removed. The chickadees and woodpeckers were frequent visitors during cold and stormy weather but on pleasant days they were accustomed to foraging in the woodlands. On account of the extreme cold of the present winter most of the different species which have previously been winter visitors in Northern New England have been with us in considerable numbers. In many places birds have been reported as dying from scarcity of food and several bird lovers have endeavored to encourage school children to attract them to their homes by supplying them with food.

A. C. DIKE.

Bristol, Vt.

[The above subject is a very interesting one and while we have had no time or opportunity to experiment along this line several such cases have come under our observation this long, cold winter. Owing to the extreme and unheard of long, cold weather, the ice became frozen in Casco Bay, about Portland and vicinity, thus covering over the extensive feeding grounds about the harbor, of immense flocks of gulls and ducks, there were very large flocks of these winter birds reported as starving for want of food. Several observers fed the flocks near Martin's Point Bridge, near the U. S. Marine Hospital, thus affording fine opportunity for observation of these birds.

One cold day this winter I called at Mr. Palmer's store. Mr. Palmer lives alone over the store in Cornville. He told me I ought to see his Chickadees feed. I went outside and there were three chickadees feeding out of

a half peck measure. Mr. Palmer puts this measure full of cracked corn and a flock of chickadees stay about there and feed all winter. Other birds are attracted there too. White-breasted Nuthatches, House Sparrows and an occasional flock of Snowflakes have been there to feed. Mr. Palmer says his birds come every day to feed, and he has to fill the measure about once in four weeks, though presumably the rough, wintry winds blow away more of the corn than the birds eat. ED.]

NOTES ON THE WARBLERS FOUND IN MAINE.

[These contributions to the life histories of our North American Warblers were first planned to be written up in order as the names appear on the N. A. check-list, but it was found that the committee could not treat them in this way, so the committee arranged to write them up as best we could, by choosing those we had material for and leaving others till later, thus giving us an opportunity to work up notes and data on the several varieties to be treated later. At the last annual meeting, it was voted to be left with a committee to write up this most interesting family and Prof. Ora W. Knight, J. Merton Swain, Capt. Herbert L. Spinney, and Prof. Wm. L. Powers were chosen to take the work in charge. These contributions will, we believe, be of value to all, coming as they do from the north-eastern-most state in the union, which state is very well represented by a large list of this interesting family. The following paper, the first of the series on the Yellow Palm Warbler is written by Mr. Knight, and the accompanying photo, is by the same author. The next paper in the series will be on the Wilson's Blackcap Warbler illustrated with photos. of the nest taken on the Hermon Bog and also of the nest with the female thereon, written by Mr. J. Merton Swain. This paper will appear in the July issue. Other species will be treated by Capt. Spinney and Prof. Powers in the October and January numbers and so on until the entire family that occur in Maine have been treated. ED.]

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE YELLOW PALM WARBLER.

Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea Ridgw.

Geographical Distribution.—This species winters in the South Atlantic and Gulf States. In migration it is more or less common through the Atlantic States. The breeding range is from northern and eastern Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia north to Labrador and Hudson Bay.

Though for many years known as a common spring and fall migrant in the Eastern United States, the home life of the Yellow Palm or Yellow Redpoll Warbler was long unknown. It was supposed to nest in Labrador, that vague land to which it is so easy to ascribe the summer home of so many birds which pass northwards beyond our ken.

The late Mr. Boardman found this species remained through the summer near Calais but did not find the nest or eggs, and a vague rumor that the late Mr. Anson Allen found a nest and eggs in Orono Bog was a quite probable but nevertheless totally uncorroborated fact which was dangled before my ornithological senses and which could never be traced to any foundation other than rumor.

In boyhood days I knew this species as a migrant arriving from the south and being first seen by me near Bangor at dates varying in different years between April 24 and May 4. It was usually in flocks of ten or twelve individuals which would be observed feeding in the low bushes of pastures, and about May 20 the species would disappear to be seen no more until accompanied by the young on their southern journey (as I then supposed) in mid July. The fact that individuals were seen at this early date, and that the species was still with us until as late as October 1 before finally disappearing was ascribed to the loitering of individuals along the way until finally driven by the frosts southward.

It has remained for more recent developments to show that this bird is a common local summer resident of certain sections of the State within the limits of the Canadian fauna. The first authentic nest and eggs to be recorded from the United States are partially described by me in the

Oologist, February 1893, page 14. The circumstances connected with their discovery I now propose to relate in detail for the first time, and to fully describe the spot where the first recorded nest and a majority of the subsequent ones taken or found in the United States and this State have been discovered.

From the northeastern part of the City of Bangor a road called Stillwater Avenue runs from Bangor through Veazie and Orono to the town of Stillwater (now part of the city of Oldtown) some ten miles distant. At a point about half way to Stillwater, and partly in Veazie and partly in Orono this road runs for a quarter of a mile through a bog which has been locally known as Bangor Bog or Orono Bog. This bog extends some three miles northwest to Pushaw Pond, and hence along the eastern side of the pond for nearly seven miles. Near Stillwater Avenue this bog consists of large open expanses thickly carpeted with sphagnum mosses, and dotted with numerous small trees and shrubs. Among the characteristic plants may be enumerated Hackmatack (*Larix laricina* Du Roi); Swamp Spruce (*Picea brevifolia* Peck); Labrador Tea (*Ledum groenlandicum* (Eder); *Rhododendron* (*Rhodora canadensis* Linn.); Swamp Laurel (*Kalmia glauca* Ait.); Wild Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia* Linn.); Low Birch (*Betula pumila* Linn.); Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea* Linn.); Buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata* Linn.); *Arethusa* (*Arethusa bulbosa* Linn.); *Calopogon* (*Limodorum tuberosum* Linn.); and many species of Sedges. Such is the region preferred by this Warbler as its summer home, and in such spots it may be confidently looked for in the nesting season. In places the growth on the bog becomes of a different character, and the growth is thicker, and the carpet of moss is lacking, and here the Yellow Palm Warbler does not tarry to nest.

On Memorial Day, 1892, a friend, Charles Whitman, had visited this bog to collect a certain rare butterfly, *Chionobas jutta*, which is said to be a relic of the Glacial Period and not known to occur in 1892 at any other station in the United States. Mr. Whitman was also an ornithologist

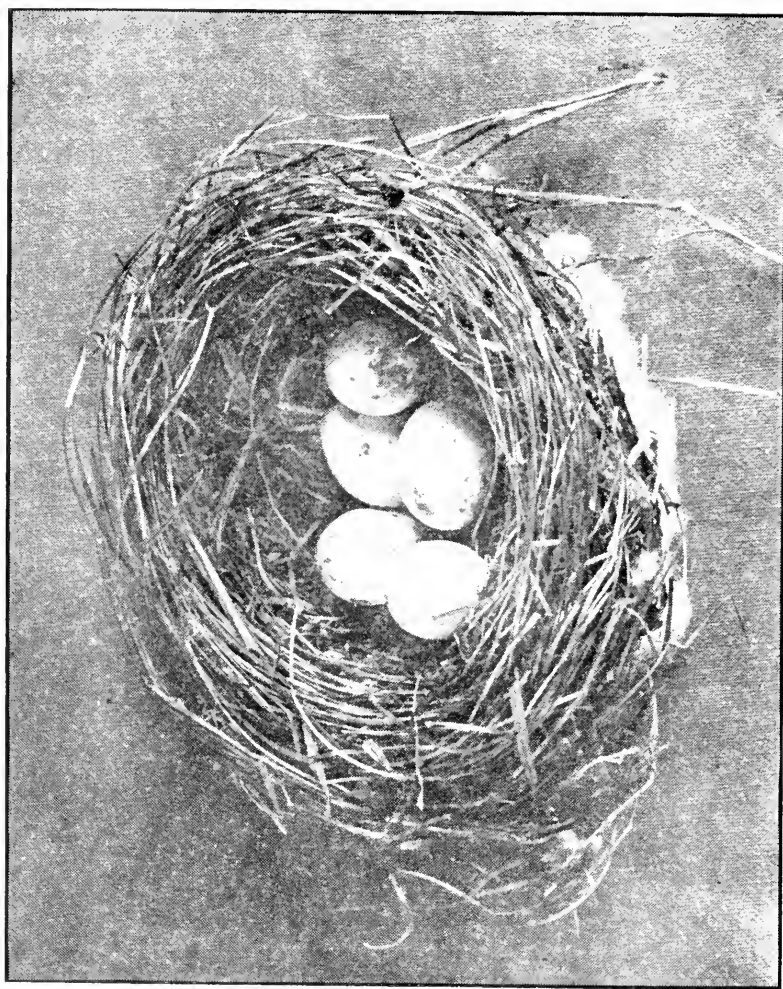
and on his return reported that he had discovered a nest with young of the Yellow Red-poll Warbler. He readily agreed to visit the locality with me on the following Saturday, June 4, 1892. We started for the bog in due time and on our arrival found the nest previously discovered. During the interval the young which he had said were newly hatched when discovered had not only developed their natal down, but well developed pin-feathers containing the juvenal plumage were to be seen. The parent birds were both in the immediate vicinity, and were much excited uttering frequent chips and vigorously wagging their tails and hopping from bush to bush. The nest was at the foot of a small spruce shrub and was well imbedded in the sphagnum moss and concealed by the shrub above. Its construction, situation and appearance was so similar to others discovered later that one description will practically do for all.

As we could hear other individuals of this species singing near at hand we decided to seek further, though no thoughts of really finding another nest seriously entered our minds. My friend led the way, and as I followed close at his heels a small bird suddenly fluttered from under my very feet and seemingly from the very spot at the foot of a small spruce whence he had just lifted his heel. One glance downward and five nearly fresh eggs of the Yellow Palm Warbler greeted my eye. The small spruce was only a foot high and quite bushy, so that the nest was well sheltered by it, and like the first one well imbedded in the moss. It was composed of fine dry sedges and grasses, lined with a very few feathers and one or two horsehairs. Its external diameter was three inches and its internal diameter at the top two inches. Its depth outside was two and a half inches and the depth inside one inch. The ground color of the eggs was a peculiar roseate buffy-white. They were very sparsely and finely spotted toward the smaller end, while on the larger end the spots became more numerous and blotchlike tending to form a rather close wreath. The color of the spots were reddish-brown, lavender and lilac. The eggs are before me as I write, and careful

measurements just made are as follows:—.65x.51, .65x.50, .65x.50, .67x.50, .65x.50 inches.

We later on found another nest with four young by watching the parent birds carry food to them, and

five eggs on the point of hatching which were later found by my friend. In fact all the nests found that day were similarly constructed and located. On visiting the nests then containing partly fledged young just



NEST AND EGGS OF YELLOW PALM WARBLER.
Now in collection of O. W. Knight.
Orono Bog, Orono, Me., June 4, 1892.

these young had the juvenal plumage quite well developed, being seemingly about seven days old. This nest was situated at the foot of a small spruce as was another containing

a week later the young were found to have flown in the meanwhile. It would thus seem that the young leave the nest within twelve days after hatching, and though judging by the

anxious actions of the parent birds the young were in the immediate vicinity we were able to see them in the act of feeding one only which could essay a feeble flight at our approach.

The spring of 1893 found us sure of Yellow Palm Warbler finds, but though we visited the bog frequently from the middle of May to the middle of June, and though we heard and saw many of the birds, not a nest rewarded our persistence.

In spite of frequent visits in 1894 my notes do not record any finds until June 2nd when a nest containing four nearly fully fledged young was discovered, and later in the day a bird was flushed from a nest containing five quite fresh eggs. These were similar to those previously described, and measurements which were taken at the time have since been mislaid but I remember they did not differ materially from those of my first set. This nest is now in the collection of J. Parker Norris.

In spite of yearly visits my note book does not again mention the home of this bird as being discovered in the bog until June 9th, 1901, when a nest containing four nearly fledged young was found. This was in a hummock of moss in a very open spot and the usual shrub for a shelter was lacking.

The first day of June, 1902, found a party of four, including Mr. Swain, Mr. Hall, Mr. Billings and myself on the way to a bog in the town of Hermon for scientific purposes. This bog is very similar to the Orono Bog in every respect save that it is much smaller. We heard the song of the Yellow Palm Warbler in various spots, and while searching for rare plants Mr. Billings flushed a bird from a tuft of grasses, and Mr. Swain discovered a nest containing five incubated eggs of this Warbler. "The nest was placed in a tuft of grass beside a small spruce bush" as recorded by Mr. Swain in this Journal for July 1902, p. 41. Mr. Swain describes the nest as composed of dry grasses, dead spruce twigs, and with feathers of the Canadian Ruffed Grouse worked throughout the structure." It was lined with cattle hair, fine grasses and feathers of the Grouse and also of what was seemingly the Hermit Thrush. Its outside diameter was

four and a half inches and its inside diameter two and three-fourths inches. Its depth outside was two and a fourth and its depth inside one and a half inches. The eggs were creamy white, speckled and blotched with reddish brown and lilac spots which were heaviest about the larger end. They measured .65x.51, .64x.50, .65x.50, .66x.51, .65x.51 inches, and were far advanced in incubation."

In this Journal for 1902, p. 40, Mr. Swain records a nest of this species containing four young apparently about a week old which he found in dry waste rather wet land in which were scattered patches of grey birches. This was between Burnham and Unity.

On May 27, 1891, the late C. H. Morrell found a nest of this bird near Pittsfield, and while his set is the first authentic one taken in Maine I am unable to ascertain that it has ever been previously recorded. His notes of which I have a copy before me describe this nest as composed of grass and leaves, lined with grasses and situated on the ground. It contained two eggs of the Warbler and two of the Cowbird. It was in a pasture on side of a knoll at foot of a small fir bush. The eggs of the Cowbird were advanced in incubation and those of the Warbler fresh.

On June 25, 1893, Mr. Morrell's notes record a second nest which was situated in a bushy pasture between two small bushes. The nest was outwardly composed of fine wire-grass or June-grass and some feathers, lined with feathers and a few fine grasses. It contained five eggs.

On June 13, 1894, Mr. H. H. Johnson collected a set near Pittsfield. The nest was in the edge of a "cutting" in a small growth of trees, and was placed about four inches from the ground in a small spruce bush. It was composed of weed stalks and fine roots of grass and fine grass, lined with feathers which were seemingly those of the parent bird. The eggs were fresh.

The foregoing is in brief all that is known of the nesting localities of this species in the United States and of the nests which have been found.

In his Catalogue of the Birds of Portland Mr. Brown records this species as arriving in that vicinity between April 15 and April 25, tarry-

ing about a month and passing northward. In the fall it arrives about September 20 and remains until about November 2nd.

Capt. H. L. Spinney reports as follows regarding the occurrence of the species about the light at Seguin Island. "May 1st, 1897, one seen; May 6th, one seen; June 3rd a number seen; June 7th, ten seen." "On April 18, 1898 one was seen, and on April 23rd a number were seen." "September 29, 1898 a number were killed." "April 30th, 1901 one was seen and April 23rd, 1902 a number were seen."

Near Bangor I have seen the species as early as April 24 and it remains as late as October 1st.

The birds frequent bushy pastures and bog land during the nesting season, and in migration occur in alder thickets and bushes along streams and roadsides and in pastures. Their nervous actions, the continuous twitching of their tails, their habit of catching their food on the wing like a Flycatcher are facts sure to be seen when observing these birds. The adult in spring plumage has conspicuous yellow under parts, while the sides of the throat and the breast and sides are streaked with chestnut-rufous. The line over the eye and ring around the eye are yellow. The crown is chestnut and the back brownish olive green, changing into olive green on the rump. The tail is edged with olive green and the outer tail feathers have white spots on the inner veins near the tips.

The natal down of the young is a peculiar mouse color with a tint verging toward sepia which is hard to describe. The juvenal plumage has begun to replace the natal down when the birds are six days old, and they leave the nest within about twelve days after hatching, and after hiding a day or so in the undergrowth are able to essay short flights. The juvenal plumage is well described by Dr. Dwight in his most excellent paper entitled "The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York" and detailed descriptions can be consulted in his article. He states that the juvenal plumage is acquired by a complete postnatal moult. The first winter plumage is acquired by a partial post-juvenal moult which takes place in

eastern Canada in August. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by a partial prenuptial moult; the adult winter plumage by a complete post-nuptial moult; and the adult nuptial plumage by a partial prenuptial moult.

In the nesting season the species may be confidently looked for in any sphagnum-hackmatack bog with open stretches within the Canadian faunal sections of the State. So far as known the birds are found in what may be perhaps termed loosely aggregated colonies. From their arrival until well into June the song of the male is frequently uttered. It consists of a series of trills which may be rendered "Tsee tsee tsee tsee tsee," and the call and alarm notes are mere "chips" uttered with various intonations.

Though diligent watching throughout May has yet failed to reveal the birds in the act of building, yet owing to well fledged young being found as early as the second of June it is very evident that some individuals must begin nest building so that eggs are deposited at least as early as May 11, and consequently the birds in some instances are quite likely to begin building approximately May 1, or soon after their arrival. The nesting season is prolonged until well into June. The parent birds are usually in the vicinity of the nest which may be found after it contains young by watching the birds carrying food. Before the young have hatched the only way yet successful of finding nests is by flushing the sitting bird, but with precautions the birds should be detected in the act of nest building. While the female is incubating the male sings frequently from the top of some low tree or bush near at hand, and by thoroughly searching the immediate vicinity the female may sometimes be flushed from the nest.

The food of this species consists largely of insects and among the contents of stomachs of birds taken in spring and summer have been found small beetles, gnats, mosquitoes, flies and the general run of small insects found on the trunks of trees or flying in the air in localities which the Warblers frequent. In late summer and fall some small amount of vegetable

matter is also eaten, chiefly unidentified plant seeds.

The illustration presented in connection with this article is of the nest and eggs taken at Orono Bog, June 4, 1892 and fully described in connection with this article.

O. W. KNIGHT.

THE WOODCOCK.

[Read before the Maine Ornithological Society at Gardiner, Mar. 29th, 1903.]

I suppose my friend Powers picked me to tell you something about the woodcock because I have shot many of these birds, and always see more or less of them every season. Dr. Coues says: "This is the game bird after all, say what you please of snipe, quail, or grouse." I agree with the Doctor, and would add that I think it the best bird for the table that we have.

The Woodcock comes to this State very early. I remember of having one brought to me on the 10th of March. This bird had flown against a telegraph wire and was killed. I have seen a number that have been killed in this way, and remember of seeing one fly against the telephone wires in my own yard, but this one recovered and went its way.

I remember well some years ago that I was walking in the woods and found a Woodcock's nest. It was near a bunch of alders on the edge of a swamp. I nearly stepped on the bird, or would never have seen it. The nest was made with very little work, only a few dry leaves being collected for its structure. There were four eggs in it, the color of which was drab with an olive tint and marked quite thickly with light and dark brown blotches. The bird was very tame. I went to the nest the second time and got to within a few feet of the bird before she left. Later with my Grandfather we started the old bird. She had much trouble in rising and was carrying something in her beak or feet. We thought it must be one of the young birds. I had never heard at that time that the parents would take their young from place to place, but have since seen accounts of their doing so.

I know very little of the Woodcock during the summer months. The first of September often the birds are not

done moulting. We then find them in secluded places. Later on they work back into the covers. This gradual coming back leads many sportsmen to say that the flight has begun, which sometimes is reported as early as Sept. 20th. Now I think this is a mistake. I do not think that the birds begin to migrate much before Oct. 10th, and this depends much on the weather North. The best shooting I ever had was Oct. 19th, some ten years ago. It was late in the forenoon when we got into the covers. There were birds everywhere. We shot 18 Woodcock that day and started many more. I remember distinctly the day was dark and damp. It cleared that night and was cold. We were out the 18th and found a very few birds, and again on the 20th with the same result as the 18th. This shows to me that sometimes they come in quantities in a single night, and leave as quickly, but generally they come a few at a time and drop into the covers, and if good feed is found they stop some days, and then go on as the season advances. The main flight is over by Nov. 1st, but I have had good shooting, Nov. 7th. I got seven birds this year on that date. I have heard of their being seen as late as Nov. 26th, but Nov. 13th is the latest I have ever seen one. My experience of hunting these birds in the last 20 years is that they nearly always occupy the same places in the covers, for instance there will be a knoll here and a wet hole there where they are likely to be found, and if not in these places it is of little use to hunt in this cover for them. It has never been my experience to often find more than one or two birds in a place, but on one occasion I saw three get up ahead of my dog at once, that was this year when I was shooting in Litchfield.

While this bird is an easy bird to hunt with a dog he is very wary after being started a few times, and know as well how to get under cover as any bird I know. I think these birds come back to the same covers year after year.

I went out of my way a quarter of a mile this season to see if there was a bird where I left one last year, my friend laughed at me, but I went and found an old bird within ten feet of

where I started one last season. I shall always think it was the same bird we started the year before, for it started to make its flight exactly as it did before. This place was not in a regular cover, but on the top of a hill in some grey birches, which was well adapted to the occupancy of one or two birds.

The flight of the woodcock is usually very short, say from 25 to 100 yards, but I have known them to go a long distance. This is a characteristic with small birds we find late in the season, known to many sportsmen as the Labrador bird. I differ in my opinion about this. These small quick flying birds in my opinion are natives that have been hunted and learned the country and know just how to elude the sportsman. As we all know, the woodcock is a nocturnal bird, doing its flying in the night, and early evening. I have seen this bird flying from place to place especially in the moulting season, and have repeatedly been in covers in early morning where my dog would make game, but be unable to find the bird. This shows that they often frequent different places in the day time than at night. Usually these birds are found in swampy places where there are alders and birches, but I have found them in rocky pastures where there were evergreens, blackberry bushes and small hardwood growth. I have known a cover to hold many birds one season, but the very next year there would be scarcely a single bird there. This is due no doubt to some condition of the ground which has driven the feed away. Sportsmen say the ground has grown sour.

The woodcock is a very proud bird, and I have seen him strut with pomp that would do justice to a turkey gobbler, or peacock. I do not think there are as many woodcock now as there were years ago which is partly due to more men shooting them, but there has been more this last season than for a number of years past, which I think is due largely to our better laws protecting these birds. The best feature is stopping the selling in the markets. When this was allowed there were many men that hunted just for profit, early and late day in and day out, from the first day the law was off until the last bird had gone in November. In my opin-

ion we now have the best laws we have ever had governing these birds. I sincerely hope they may continue with improvement from year to year so that our woodcock may never meet the fate we feared it would some years ago.

GEO. D. LIBBY.

NOTES ON THE FINCHES FOUND IN MAINE.

By Arthur H. Norton.

[Continued from Vol. VI, p 5]

Astragalinus tristis (Linn.). American Goldfinch, Thistle-bird. "Yellow-bird, Black winged Yellow-bird and Flax-bird"

Common throughout the state in summer, breeding throughout. In winter its occurrence is irregular, being occasionally common at this season, or in other years rare or absent. During the cold season it associated to some extent with Siskins and Redpolls, where food is abundant. That this bird feeds its young by regurgitation is a fact I do not remember having seen directly stated. (Cf. Journ. Me. Orn. Soc. v. p. 46).

Spinus pinus (Wils.). Pine Siskin, American Siskin, Pine Goldfinch or Linnet.

Irregularly abundant throughout the state as a fall migrant and winter resident. It is also a summer resident to some extent in the Canadian fauna or spruce area of Maine.

This species partakes of the irregular disposition of the Crossbills and Redpolls in its migratory movements, some seasons appearing in southern Maine only in fall and passing to other regions to spend the winter, in others remaining in more or less abundance throughout that season, and occasionally remaining late in spring: the latest date at this season to be recorded seems to have been May 27, 1888, reported by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, (Proc. Port Soc., N. H. II, p. 39). It also partakes in some degree of the irregular breeding habits of the Crossbills, and is reported in some instances to breed in colonies. (Cf. New Eng. Bird Life I, p. 229).

While there are several extralimital breeding records, (see New Eng. Bird life as above), there is at least

one for Maine where it bred beyond the confines of the Canadian fauna: this instance was recorded by Mr. Everett Smith in his *Birds of Maine*, being quoted from a letter from Mr. James C. Mead of North Bridgton where the phenomena was observed. The quotation is so interesting that it is given in full. "The Pine linnets (*C. pinus*) were abundant here in the winter of 1877-78 and remained as late as May 6. April 2 I took a female containing eggs, one of which was nearly ready to be laid. April 24 I found a nest of this species containing four young birds. The nest was on the branch of a 'hard pine' tree four feet from the trunk, and twenty-five feet above the water of the lake [Long Pond] over which the branch projected. The nest was loosely built of fine twigs, mosses, and rootlets, and received most of its support from the Pine needles which grew out from the branch on which it was placed."

(Forest & Stream XIX, p. 466, Jan. 11, 1883.)

While this indicates early breeding, Mr. William Brewster described the juvenal plumage from a specimen taken at Upton, Me., August 18, 1873. (Bull. Nutt. Orn. C. III, p. 117) which would indicate a long breeding period and perhaps more than one brood. The nest described by Mr. Mead seems to be characteristic in its height, and position in an evergreen tree.

Passerina nivalis (Linn). Snowflake, Snow-Bunting or "Snow-bird."

Of common occurrence throughout the state between October 15th and April 1st. Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown has reported its occurrence near Portland as late as April 12, (Proc. Port Soc., N. H., II, p. 13), while Mr. C. J. Maynard has been quoted as the authority for the report of "A flock of Snowflakes on Mt. Katahdin early in August." (N. E. Bird Life I, p. 232.)

While it is a species of regular occurrence, it is a wandering bird appearing in small, or in very large flocks pausing for a period, from a few minutes to a few days if food is abundant, and then dashing away to other fields.

The movement of a large flock of these buntings on one occasion excited my interest in a large degree, as

it suggested most vividly the significance of migratory birds in the economy of nature. This was on February 16, 1903; snow covered the ground to some depth, leaving only the tall weeds of the garden protruding above its surface. All at once the scene was enlivened by the appearance of about two hundred of these birds, which with an unrivalled vigor, dashed about, examining every weed, seizing upon all available seed. As those at one end of the flock had exhausted the supply at hand they rose and flew over their fellows to an ungleaned place; thus the scene was one of almost violent action as the flock seemed to roll over and over until the limit of the supply was reached when at some instance all rose and sought another patch where the scene was repeated. When this too, had been gleaned, with one accord all united in a pleasing chorus of voices and mounted high into the air where they disappeared from view.

Examination showed the weeds so rapidly inspected had been gleaned of their seed.

With us it rarely perches in trees.

Calcarius lapponicus (Linn.). Lapland Langspur.

This bird is accounted a rare winter visitor in Maine. As a migrant however it is probably not infrequent, associating with Horned Larks when its presence would be detected only by those very familiar with either species. Though cited,—undoubtedly upon Mr. Boardman's authority—in most of the Maine lists since Holmes of 1861, Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown was the first to give a definite record, mentioning two specimens from the vicinity of Portland, one of which was taken on the 26th of October 1876. (Proc. Port. Soc. N. H. II, p. 13). Mr. Knight cites its occurrence at Knox, Oxford, Piscataquis and Washington counties. (Birds of Maine p. 95). The Knox county record, of which the locality is given, is based upon the specimen in the collection of the writer, which was taken at Clark's Island, St. George, Me., March 16, 1896, by Mr. Chas. Bohm. It is a significant fact that it was associating with Horned Larks and was supposed to be one until after its capture. This specimen is also recorded in the Maine Sportsmen, June 1897, page 20.

Mr. Jed. F. Fanning has given me data of a specimen which he took on December 29, 1890 in Lubec, Me. "It was with a flock of Snowflakes in an open snow-covered field a mile south-westerly of Lubec Village." This specimen is in the collection of Prof. J. Y. Stanton.

While at Pine Point, Scarborough, Me., late in October 1901, a passage of Horned Larks and Pipits of considerable magnitude was observed to be in progress. Occasionally birds were observed with them which seemed to differ from either species, but were not taken. However on October 31, while on the end of the sandy point five birds came from across the bay and alighted a short distance away. Their gray appearance, and size slightly smaller than that of the Horned Larks, which they resembled, attracted my attention, and investigation proved them all to be of the present species.

Calcarius ornatus. (Townsend). Chestnut-colored Langspur.

This species has once been known to straggle to Maine. This specimen was taken August 13, 1886 on the Little River marsh by Pine Point in Scarborough, by Dr. Joseph L. Goodale. (Goodale, Auk IV, p. 77). Under date of Feb. 12, 1904, Dr. Goodale assures me that the specimen is still in his collection.

Poecetes gramineus. (Gmel). Vesper Sparrow. Bay-winged Bunting. Grass Finch. "Ground Sparrow." This species is of general distribution throughout the state. However it is rather uncommon on much of the coast and nearer islands, and absent from the outer islands. On the rocky foot hills of York County I have found it to be the characteristic finch, abounding in pastures where it places its nest, sheltered by a bush, weed, or stone.

On the more level and grassy fields of certain parts of Cumberland County, and indeed in similar localities in York County it is less abundant, giving place to Savanna Sparrows and Bobolinks.

In late summer it becomes a characteristic feature of the roadside in much of the state's area.

At least two broods are raised in a season.

While the general form of its song is similar to that of our Song Spar-

row, the points of difference are strongly marked, that of the present species having a pathetic quality which enhances its sweetness to the degree that it has been called "One of the finest songsters among the Sparrows," (New Eng. Bd. Life, I, p. 241.). In addition to this song some individuals at least, have a low rambling warble, quite ventriloquial in effect, strikingly different from the well known song when first heard, but the points of likeness become apparent as one listens to the bird.

Passerculus princeps Maynard. Ipswich Sparrow.

A migrant coastwise, probably less common than twenty-four years ago, when it was recorded by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown as "Common in autumn" in the vicinity of Portland. (Proc. Port. Soc. N. H. II, p. 13).

This interesting bird, the true home of which remained so long unknown, seems to have been added to the fauna of Maine in 1875, by the capture of a specimen at Cape Elizabeth March 20* by Mr. Willey. The fact was made known to ornithologists the same year by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, whose observations upon it are probably the most extensive of any ornithologist of Maine. (Brown, Rod & Gun VI, p. 81, May 8, 1875.). Mr. Brown in 1882 indicated that it was not, (from Saco River to Scarborough) uncommon as a fall migrant between October 13 and November 6. (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club VII, p. 190.).

In 1883 Mr. Everett Smith in his Birds of Maine recorded a specimen taken at Back Bay, Portland, March 1882 by Mr. Andrew Nelson, Jr. (Forest & Stream XIX, p. 466, Jan. 11, 1883.). He further stated, "I have seen this Sparrow in Maine in December when there were several inches of snow on the ground and long after all the Savanna Sparrows had gone South." (l. c.)

In 1886, Mr. Joseph L. Goodale proved its occurrence in Maine in the

*"This was also mentioned by Mr. William Brewster Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club I, p. 52, where the date is given as March 15. As this is repeated by Mr. Stearns in the New England Bird Life I, p. 236, it seems proper to take note of the case, which did not attract my attention in season to correspond with the gentlemen who are parties to the records. Mr. Brown's date is presumed to be the correct one as he later gave his earliest spring record, March 20. Proc. Port. Soc. N. H. II, p. 13. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. VII, p. 190."

latter part of January by the capture of two specimens "Between Pine Point and Old Orchard" on January 23. (Goodale Auk III, p. 277.).

In 1900 Capt. Herbert L. Spinney secured at Seguin Island a specimen on October 11, two days earlier than any previous Maine record. This is in the writer's collection.

The spring records have been few, indeed. Mr. Brown had knowledge of their occurrence only between the dates of March 20 and 28. (Proc. Port. Soc. N. H. II, p. 13. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VII, p. 190.) This may indicate an ancestral route of migration, but more probably it illustrates the small amount of investigation devoted to the species in spring. Certainly in Southern New England the species lingers into the beginning of April (Dwight Memoirs Nutt. Orn. Cl. II, pp. 32-33.)

Capt. Spinney has reported a spring specimen taken in the town of Phippsburg, (Knight Birds of Maine p. 96), and Mr. Fred Rackliff one from Knox Co. (l. c.) The latter is still in Mr. Rackliff's collection and was taken on the Little Green Island, South part of the Mussel Ledge Islands.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna (Wils.) Savanna Sparrow. "Ground Sparrow."

Seemingly common throughout the state in suitable situations, for it is a bird of green fields, low meadows and valleys, and especially of the coast and islands. Indeed its abundance on the coast has impressed nearly every writer upon Maine birds. But while so generally distributed as Mr. Knight has shown it to be I did not find it during the entire month of July 1900, about East Parsonsfield nor did I see it at Shapleigh during three days spent there the latter part of June, 1901. Hon. J. C. Mead also reports it as "Rare near Bridgton." (Cf. Knights' Birds of Maine, p. 96.)

I did not observe it during several days spent upon Matinicus Rock, July, 1903, its absence being due no doubt to the scarcity of vegetation there.

I have found it abundant upon nearly every grassy island between Old Orchard and Cutler, which I have visited (practically all of the outer islands.)

At Matinicus Seal Island, one of the extreme outer islands, I found it in marked abundance, while at Machias

Seal Island, which is more isolated though less distant from its coast, it was rare, only one, a juvenal bird being observed in 1903. Yet the conditions there would seem favorable to its existence. It is common on the salt marshes at Wells, Scarborough and Popham, where it breeds with the Sharpshills, and remains throughout the period of its presence.

On June 5, 1897, I found a nest of the Savanna Sparrow on one of the marshes at Scarborough where the high tide two weeks later inundated the marsh to the depth of fifteen inches. The fate of this nest was not determined.

Though a summer resident occurring between the first week in April and early November, it has twice been taken on our coast in winter. Once at Seguin on Jan. 24, 1897 by Capt. H. L. Spinney, who very kindly presented the specimen to the writer.

The following winter Mr. Fred Rackliff took an abnormally developed specimen on the Big Green Island, Knox County, Maine, on November 28, (1898). This specimen was also presented to the writer.

Coturniculus savannarum passerinus (Wils.) Grasshopper Sparrow. Yellow-winged Sparrow.

Of rare occurrence, probably an occasional irregular visitant rather than an accidental straggler. Four instances known. Audubon's citation of Maine in connection with its habitat is too dubious in its nature to stand as a record. (Cf. Orn. Biog. II, p. 180).

Mr. Boardman appears to have afforded the first actual data of the birds occurrence, and it was doubtless upon his information that it was included in Dr. Holmes's list in 1861. (Sixth Ann. Rept. Me. Bd. Agri. 1861, p. 118.).

In 1862 Mr. Boardman included it in his own Catalogue in the following terms, "Summer visitant. Rare. Arrives the first of April." (Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H. IX, p. 126).

In 1883, Mr. Everett Smith stated, "George A. Boardman, Esq., informs me that he has procured two specimens here." (Forest & Stream XIX, p. 466.).

In 1901 Mr. J. M. Swain noted the capture of a specimen at Pittsfield by the late Clarence H. Morrell.

(Editorial Journ. Me. Orn. Soc. III, p. 31.)

Under the date of June 12, Mr. Morrill informed me of the capture and fixed the date of the event on June 8, 1901, and stated that "It sang quite persistently." (Morrill in Epist. June 12, 1901.) Mr. Morrill later recorded the fact in the Auk, volume XIX, page 290, but the number is not at this moment at hand.

On the afternoon of June 27, 1901, while in my garden on the edge of a low field—in Westbrook, Me.—the song of this sparrow arrested my attention. Toward evening I returned and the song of the bird was heard again and again. This song was well known from experience in a region where the Grasshopper Sparrow was the common "Ground Sparrow." Carefully I traced it to its source and flushed the bird and followed it about until dark. It was a persistent singer indeed. It hardly perched as high as the tops of the Ox-eyed Daisies with which the field was spread as with a mantle. It flushed close at hand again and again, and only when too dark to distinguish it I left the field.

The next day it was still singing whenever I was at home and again on the following day, June 29, when I was able to examine it with a pair of Marine glasses at mid-day. Owing to an accident it was not collected.

Ammodramus caudacutus (Gmel.). Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Known only to occur on the salt marshes of Wells and Scarborough where it breeds. Only a small colony is known at Scarborough, while at Wells its presence has been determined by the capture of a single specimen in juvenal plumage on July 24, 1897. It is probable however that it will be found at suitable localities between these points.

I have not found it in spring earlier than June 5 (1897) nor later in fall than Aug. 28, 1897, when it was moulting and clearly in no condition to migrate. Mr. W. H. Brownson observed it at Scarborough on the 17th of September (1902). (Brownson in Epist., Sept. 29, 1902.)

Ammodramus nelsoni (Allen). Nelson Sparrow.

Since the first Maine specimens of this bird came to light at Scarborough, October 16, 1894, (Proc. Port. Soc. N. H., II, p. 99), it has been found to be

not uncommon as a migrant both in spring and fall. Indeed it may be found to be more numerous than the available data warrants us to conclude. While the remarks apply only to unquestionable specimens of *A. nelsoni*, many birds intermediate with this and *A. nelsoni subvirgatus* occur seeming to equal in numbers those of typical *subvirgatus*: as these can usually be best referred to that form they will be treated there from several localities.

Comparatively little has been done in observing the migration of this group: during the spring of 1897, however, frequent visits were made to the Scarborough marshes which were well explored at each visit. On a visit made May 22 extensive search revealed the presence of only two Sharp-tails, which were together, and both were taken. They were males, one being referred to this form, the other being intermediate with this and the next, the balance however being in favor of the next form.

The next visit was on June 5 when the same territory was found to contain the present species and birds somewhat intermediate, but referable to the next. Among these, (which were farther inland than the colony of *A. caudacutus* is located) was one specimen of *caudacutus*.

The presence of these birds in numbers where a couple of weeks later none of the group could be found, shows quite conclusively not only that they were migrating, but that they migrate late. This fact throws light on the nature of the occurrence of several Massachusetts and Connecticut specimens taken in late May and early June, (Dwight Auk, XIII, p. 275), while those instances support the indication that the migration is regularly late.

The sexes were about equally divided in the specimens collected and some of the males were singing; furthermore the males were in full sexual vigor, while the females were only beginning to show signs of sexual growth. The song differed in no respect from that of *caudacutus* or *subvirgatus*.

In fall I have taken unquestionable specimens between the dates of October 9 and 16, inclusive, while intermediates have been taken as late as October 25.

Ammodramus nelsoni subviegatus (Dwight). Acadian Sharptailed Finch.

Summer resident breeding as far to the westward as Popham Beach, Cape Small, Maine. (Proc. Port. Soc. N. H. II, p. 99-100).

As a migrant it is abundant swarming on salt marshes in western Maine during the month of October.

The limits of its migratory movements have not been fully determined. The earliest date that I have found it at Scarborough is October 3, (1897) when a typical specimen was taken. On the ninth of the same month, 1898, it was abundant there, with intermediate specimens, and on this date one specimen of *nelsoni* was found associating with it.

I have found it quite common as late as October 24, after which it has become scarce, probably though remains regularly until the 31st of the month. Indeed Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown has found some form as late as November 15* (1877) (Proc. Port. Soc. N. H. II, p 13).

Mr. W. H. Brownson found birds of this group "In numbers" at the Dyke marsh, at the mouth of the Presumpscot River on the 4th of October, 1903. A specimen which he had taken for identification (now in my collection) was typical of this form.

Through the kindness of Prof. L. A. Lee, I have examined an intermediate specimen which was taken in fall on marshes at Brunswick, Me.

Mr. Clarence H. Clark of Lubec has a male specimen in his collection which is intermediate. This was taken at "The Narrows Lighthouse, May 21, 1903." (Clark in Epist. Feb. 20, 1904). Though the last two specimens are intermediate they are best placed under the present sub species. Mr. Clark's specimen is especially interesting as it is the earliest spring record for any of the group so far recorded for the state.

Ammodramus maritimus (Wils.). Seaside finch. Seaside Sparrow.

But a single Maine specimen is known. This was reported by its captor, Mr. Everett Smith in the Forest and Stream, December 18th, 1884, page 405.

As this paper is out of print Mr. Smith has very kindly furnished me the following data concerning the specimen:

"Aug. 18, 1884, I visited Shark Island, [Muscongus Bay,] a grass covered islet, where I shot the bird you ask about, a Seaside Finch (immature male) and I have its skin." (Smith in Epist. Feb. 9, 1904.)

[To be Continued.]

Bird Notes.

Notes and observations on bird life are earnestly desired for publication in this column and should be sent to the Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, at Augusta, Maine.

BLACK DUCKS.

From John A. Lord and other observers in the vicinity of Portland comes the report that Black Duck, *Anas obscura*, are wintering in great quantities in Casco Bay, which is of importance as it insures large numbers of breeding birds throughout the state the coming year.

Score another point for the great benefits these fine game birds are deriving from the prohibition of spring shooting.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER AT WESTBROOK.

Mr. Arthur H. Norton writes us that he took a young female Connecticut warbler, *Geothlypis agilis*, at Westbrook on Sept. 5, 1901, and that it is the second specimen taken there.

The rare occurrence of this species within our state would make other records of much interest to our readers.

CANADA JAY NEAR BANGOR, MAINE.

Prof. O. W. Knight found near Bangor in Sept. 1903, a recently killed Canada Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis* (Linn.) which some one had shot and left. He tells the editor it is the only record for some years in this vicinity.

The JOURNAL would be glad to receive notes on the occurrence of this species south of its usual localities.

*The collection of the Portland Society of Natural History contains a specimen of this sub species collected on November 15, belonging to the Brown collection

AN ALBINO AMERICAN GOLDFINCH AT EAST HEBRON, MAINE.

Mr. Everett E. Johnson of East Hebron reports having taken an albino American goldfinch—*spinus tristis* (Linn) in that town Oct. 5, 1903, a rare and interesting find. He describes the plumage as "pure white excepting a small spot of yellow on the back of the head, and the place where the ring bars should be has a pinkish tinge."

RICHARDSON OWL.

In response to the JOURNAL's inquiries for recent records of Richardson's Owl, *Nyctala tengmalmi richardsoni* we have received but the following, both from the same locality:

Nov. 30, 1902, William F. Burbank of Lewiston took a specimen at East Hebron. It was in a bush, about five feet up when shot.

Mr. Everett E. Johnson of East Hebron reports the latest record, having taken one in that town March 14, 1904. This owl, he writes, was in the top of a large open barn.

ROUGH LEGGED HAWK IN MAINE.

The occurrence of this bird in our state is a matter of considerable interest and we would like any information that our readers can supply regarding it during this or previous winters. In the opinion of several of our close observers it must have been quite numerous during the past winter and the bird appears to come in flights much like that of the snowy owl.

Two specimens were taken at Bailey's Island in Casco Bay in Jan'y. and Mr. John A. Lord of Portland reports having seen one flying early in the winter. Its occurrence is decidedly irregular, and we would like to hear from our readers along the coast. Give us the benefit of your records, gentlemen.

A BRIEF NOTE FROM SEGUIN.

Pres. Spinney of Seguin Light in a recent letter to the JOURNAL says the winter just passed has been the worst he has ever experienced on the island. Extreme cold weather with a constant gale of wind and very high surf has made life at this light station anything but pleasant.

Continuing he says, I have never seen birds so scarce. Nothing visited the island for nearly two months up

to Feb'y. 2d, but a few snowflakes and a single crow. On Feb'y. 2d, three shore larks were seen feeding under the lee of the keeper's house. These few visitors were the only land birds seen up to the date of writing, Feb'y. 12. On the water which was beaten into a constant foam by the wintry blasts, the only signs of life was an occasional Black Guillemot and a lone cormorant.

AN ALBINO EAVE SWALLOW AT LUBEC, MAINE.

Mr. Clarence H. Clark of Lubec writes that he obtained a pure albino cliff swallow, *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Say) on the 24th of July, 1903 in that town and sends us the interesting information that "there were a pair of them among a large colony of the common ones who seemed greatly annoyed at the albino's presence and fought with them until they finally killed the one I have or rather injured it so badly that it died soon after capture."

It is in Mr. Clark's collection and was noted in the Lubec Herald of July 28, 1903, where it stated that "every part of the bird even its bill, feet and legs are pure white."

Records in detail of albinism found among our Maine birds is a subject of more than local interest and their occurrence should always be given the JOURNAL for publication, coupled with any details as to habits or treatment by their fellows that may have been observed. Don't forget the details, please.—ED.

OCCURRENCE OF A MEADOW LARK IN JANUARY.

On the 16th of January, 1904, I saw a Meadow Lark, *Sturnella magna*, at Westbrook, Me.

The bird lighted upon the grading of a house in the edge of the city, one of its very few places left bare of snow. I was unusually near it, as it was loth to leave the security of the "Brown earth" for a conspicuous position on the snow. I was therefore able to observe its characteristics very carefully. It remained a few minutes here, gathering a scanty supply of eatable matter, and then flew, (after once alighting for a moment on the snow) to an ash pile across the street, where weeds projects above the snow. That night the ground be-

came entirely covered with snow.

On January 18 I saw the bird again an eighth of a mile away, now on the bank of the Presumpscott River at a spot kept bare by steam discharged from a manufactory.

On the 19th what was undoubtedly the same bird was reported to me from the same premises. It was not seen or reported after this date.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

QUAIL—*Colinus virginianus* (LINN.).

The fact that Bob White is becoming once more a resident of the State of Maine is and ought to be a matter of the highest importance to our members and readers and the JOURNAL particularly desires prior to our next issue to receive careful and detailed reports as to its occurrence.

These highly prized game birds have been gradually, very gradually entering our western borders and have remained to breed.

In the fall of 1902 there were several flocks noted. In 1903 even a greater number were seen. The past winter will undoubtedly prove a hard one to them and jeopardize their very existence, and we ask our observers to take especial pains to ascertain what effect this duration of extreme cold and crusty snow has had upon the various coveys and report to us early the result of their investigations. Many ornithologists question the ability of *C. virginianus* to thrive in our state on account of the long and extremely cold winters and should we be able to show that the few flocks that were with us last fall have wintered without great mortality it will certainly have a tendency to disprove their theories. Let us have a definite record then of every pair noticed breeding this spring and let every member and all those having a friendly interest in these birds take especial pains to impress upon others the important fact that although a game bird Bob White in this state is protected at all times and that for him and his mate and brood there is no open season.

THE NESTING OF THE PINE GROSBEEK IN MAINE.

In a recent article in the Bangor Commercial the following portion of an article on this bird took my eye: Four years ago in the month of May I found a Grosbeak's nest about sev-

en miles north of Jackman, near a sporting camp at the Hale Pond. The nest was not in thick woods but in open pasture near the Canada road. It was woven of twigs and moss, lined with rabbits' hair and containing four pale blue-green eggs flecked with purple and hardly to be distinguished from the moss itself. This nest was in a fir tree about four feet from the ground. It was neatly woven but much less substantial than most nests of that size. Probably the fact that that region is 3000 feet above the sea level accounts for a nest in that latitude. When the young hatched I fed them with several different kinds of fruit and seeds, taking care not to alarm the mother bird and giving but a small quantity each day. There were two males and two females in this nest for their difference in plumage was well marked when they began to use their wings."

On writing to the author of this article requesting additional information with permission to publish it the following reply was received:

"O. W. Knight, Bangor,
Dear Sir:—

"In reply to your inquiry for further information about the grosbeak's nest I will say that by searching some old records kept while laboring at the Mission I find that the incubation was completed on May 27th, being the thirteenth day after the fourth and last egg of the clutch appeared in the nest. The female bird as far as I could learn did *all* the sitting. Several times I surprised the male bringing her food and saw her leave the nest and receive it from him, near but never on the nest. Both parent birds fed the fledglings before and after they left the nest, which occurred the twentieth day after they were hatched. The male sang *mornings* during incubation but not near the nest, his favorite perch being the top of a cedar tree several rods away. Sometimes after the young appeared he would alight on the same perch and utter a few soft clear notes, but his songs were fewer and shorter for the young seemed always hungry.

These birds were much less timid than our native birds. I could sit near their nest for hours without their taking alarm if I kept still. I

never drove them from their nest to examine it, but watched my chance when the female went to stretch her wings, as she did each morning during incubation."

Very truly,
MARIE KAISER MADDOX."
Ellsworth Falls, Maine.

To obtain from such a careful observer information regarding the life-history of a pair of these birds, and to have the period of incubation and length of time the young birds remain in the nest and other valuable information regarding their habits given is something for which we are very thankful. This gives us a positive record of the breeding of this species in Maine, with an idea of when and where to seek the nest.

O. W. K.

A CONTENTED WHISTLER, EVEN WITH THE TEMPERATURE 40 DEGREES BELOW ZERO.

On Feb. 4, while your editor was in Wilton, Franklin Co., Me., we heard mentioned, a duck of some species that had been left when the ducks left for the coast and was now spending its time in feeding and floating on a small patch of open water in the river in the village. I at once went to the place of business of an old friend with whom we used to hunt and fish and one who was interested in the study of bird-life. His clerk informed me that Mr. Bump had gone down to an opening below in the river to see the duck that was spending the winter in the river. I went down and found it leisurely floating upon the water in a small, open place, entirely surrounded by ice. It proved to be an American Golden eye—*Glaucionetta clangula americana* (Bonap.) It had been staying in this small, open space all through January and thus far in February at no time, except one day, has the thermometer registered above zero, and ranging from that to 40 degrees below.

It seems to be a young male, which perhaps the wing quills had not well developed, and it had thus remained behind. It was occasionally diving and feeding, seemingly as contented as it could be in summer. We approached very near to it, and it did not seem to be more frightened than would have been a domestigated bird.

When we consider this bird remaining all through the extremely cold winter, with the thermometer down day after day at from 20 to 30 degrees we wonder how it kept from freezing.

J. M. S.

NOTES BY W. H. BRONSON.

January 10, at Pond Cove, Cape Elizabeth, I saw three or four birds which were not identified, except that it was fully ascertained that they had the sides streaked. The snow was too deep for me to reach them. On the 17th I was again there equipped for wading in snow, and found that the birds were myrtle warblers, *Dendroica Coronata* (Linn.) three in number. January 24th I took Mr. J. F. Fanning and Mr. J. W. Leathers, both members of the Maine society, to the spot and showed the warblers to them, the identification being made more complete. January 31, in company with Mr Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, and Mr. Leathers, I again visited the place and the warblers were still there, three of them being fully identified, though we could not count four beyond some doubt. February 7th I was there again and the warblers had not left. February 14th Mr. Fanning, Mr. Leathers and I saw a single myrtle warbler at Cumberland foreside. February 28 and March 6th I was at Pond Cove, but it was stormy and windy both days and I did not see the warblers. The spot where they were found was adjacent to a field by the edge of the ocean, containing many weeds and a large growth of wax-myrtle, on which the birds were feeding.

January 17th one song sparrow was in company with the myrtle warblers. Two robins have been constantly seen at the Cape this winter, also one in the city limits in company with a flock of pine grosbeaks. Pine grosbeaks have been plenty since early in the fall. Bald eagles were common early in the winter around the shores of the bay. I saw one and another was shot near the marine hospital, giving rise to a little local controversy as to whether they are protected by law.

February 21 I was at Pine Point; saw a flock of American crossbills, perhaps twenty individuals; a number of horned larks, which lacked all

trace of yellow about the head and throat, and therefore are thought to have been prairie horned larks, *Otocoris alpestris praticola* (Hensh); black-backed gulls were in company with the flocks of American herring gulls out on the sandbars. Crows are winter residents all along the coast and are seen every time I go out. Small flocks of goldfinches have been seen all winter. January 17th snow buntings were present at the Cape in good-sized flocks.

After the cold weather began to close the bay with ice, a flock of perhaps fifty whistlers lived for some weeks in Back Cove, in full view from Tukey's bridge. With them there was a little bunch of buffleheads. Black ducks in a flock of fifty or more were also seen in Back Cove.

After the bay was so solidly frozen that there was no feeding-ground for black ducks anywhere around the islands these ducks gathered in great numbers, fully 700 or 800, around Martin's Point bridge, near the Marine hospital, and for a month past and up to the first half of March they remained. At the coldest weather, when there was only a small patch of open water above and below the bridge, they were right up under the bridge, and at the approach of an electric car they would fly up by the hundred, circling out over the bay and finally returning. There they became so tame that persons from the city, who went out to see them in large numbers, could approach within easy gunshot of them. It seemed during the coldest weather that they were suffering for food and from time to time kind-hearted people threw to them as much as twenty bushels of corn. At the first thaw the flats opened and early in March they had abundance of feeding-ground. They constantly flew back and forth over the bridge, some even hitting the telegraph wires, and several being disabled in this way. Warden Cushman, hearing that early in the winter before the ducks became so poor that they would not make good eating, some gunners were shooting them, watched them constantly and protected them from slaughter. He deserves much credit for his good work.

Publications Received.

The Birds of Ohio—By Lynds Jones M. Sc., Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. A revision of Dr. J. M. Wheaton's catalogue issued in 1882. Published by The Ohio State Academy of Science, special paper No. 6, Oct. 15, 1903.

As stated above, this is a revision of Dr. Wheaton's "The Birds of Ohio," in which Prof. Jones has drawn comparisons between the conditions prevailing then and now, especially as regards the bird life, and to add such facts as further study has brought to light. This catalogue is a valuable contribution to the ornithology of Ohio, and a credit to Prof. Jones.

Auk, The, XX, No. 1, Jan. 1904.

Am. Ornithology, IV, No. 1, Jan.

Am. Botanist, V, Jan. 1904.

Atlantic Slope Naturalist, The, I, Nos. 1-5.

Amateur Naturalist, The, I, No. 1, Jan. 1904.

Bird-Lore, VI, No. 1, Jan.-Feb.

Bryologist, The, VII, Nos. 1-2, 1904.

Bulletin, Mich., Ornith. Club IV, No. 4.

Boll, Weevils and Birds, an address by Prof. H. P. Atwater, at Dallas, Tex., Nov. 6, 1903.

Cassinia, Proc. Del. Valley Ornith. Club, VII, 1903.

Catalogue of Canadian Birds, Part II, by John Macoun, M. A. F. R. S. C., Ottawa, Canada, 1903.

Galt Coll. Inst. Record, The, Nov.-Dec. 1903.

Guelph Daily Herald, The, Each Friday issue containing, "Notes from Thicket and Swamp," edited by A. B. Klugh, Guelph, Ont.

Me. Sportsman, II, Nos. 125-126, Jan. and Feb. 1904.

Our Dumb Animals, Boston, Mass.

Oologist, The, XXI, Nos. 1-2, 1904.

Plant World, The, VII, Nos. 1-2.

Portland Daily Advertiser, Every Saturday issue containing valuable notes on birds by editor W. H. Brownson.

Plymouth Review, Weekly, Jan.-Mch. 1904.

Rhodora, VI, No. 62, Jan.-Feb.

Willson Bulletin, The, X, No. 4, Dec. 1903.

Warbler, The, II, No. 1, Jan.-Feb.

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A Quarterly Journal of Maine Ornithology.

"BIRD PROTECTION, BIRD STUDY, THE SPREAD OF THE KNOWLEDGE THUS GAINED, THESE ARE OUR OBJECTS."

VOL. VI.

FAIRFIELD, MAINE, JULY, 1904.

NUMBER 3

The Maine Ornithological Society.

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Ninth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1904, at Bangor, Maine.

Entered as second class mail matter at Fairfield, Me.

Editorial Chat.

We very much regret that owing to reasons entirely beyond the editor's control, we are late in getting out this issue.

It is our plan now to publish Mr. Norton's papers on The Finches as a separate, when they are completed. It will be a very desirable and valuable paper and those wishing a copy when issued, should notify the business manager early, as the edition will be limited. We shall probably publish the papers on The Warblers, also as a separate, when they are completed, providing our financial support is great enough to warrant such a step.

NOTES ON THE FINCHES FOUND IN MAINE.

By Arthur H. Norton.

[Concluded from Vol. VI, p. 47.]

Zonotrichia leucophrys (Forst.) White-crowned, Sparrow.

A migrant of irregular abundance in spring and fall. Its route of migration to the Hudsonian province lies to the westward of Maine, and our present information* indicates that it is considerably less common east of the Penobscot Bay and River than in western Maine. In the latter section of the state it is not uncommon, but is irregular in its seasons of abundance or scarcity, and passes almost entirely beyond our borders within the space of a fortnight. While it breeds well to the northward of Maine, there are at least two recorded instances of its occurrence here after the migration has been performed. (Cf. Briggs, Journ. Me. Orn. Soc. III, pp. 13-14, and Swain l. c. p. 14).

*Cf. Eds. of Me. p. 98.

Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmel.) White-throated Sparrow. Peabody Bird.

An abundant migrant, in April and May and again in October. As early as 1879 Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. IV, 107), called attention to the occurrence of this bird in summer throughout Cumberland county, from at least Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth, in the southwest. In this county its distribution is more general than that of the Junco. In that part of the state now allotted to the Canadian fauna it breeds commonly both coastwise and in the interior.

Two instances of its occurrence in winter have come to my notice, one the long recorded instance given by Dr. Joseph L. Goodale in the Auk of a healthy male taken at Saco on Jan. 20th 1886, (Auk III, p. 277). The other instance has been reported by Mr. W. H. Brownson (Portland Daily Advertiser, Feb. 20, 1904), one staying about the premises of Mr. Walter Rich in Falmouth during the winter of 1904.

Spizella monticola (Gmel.). Tree Sparrow.

Of general distribution throughout Maine, abounding during migrations, and not infrequent through the winter. At this inhospitable season, its visits to houses could be encouraged by placing chaff or bird seed in available places.

Spizella socialis (Wils.). Chipping Sparrow, Chippy, etc.

Of general distribution abundant in many sections of the state, breeding nearly everywhere that it occurs. Being a bird of towns, it probably is not numerous in the "wild lands" as it certainly is not on the unsettled islands of our coast.

Spizella pusilla (Wils.). Field Sparrow.

A bird of local distribution, being common in suitable localities, rare or absent in others. In the Canadian fauna it seems to be rare. When found it is a bird of bushy pastures or old fields, (which may be rocky), breeding in low shrubbery, blueberry, juniper and bramble. I found it to be common at East Parsonfield in 1900, and in June 25-28, 1901, detected its presence in Shapleigh. Mr. W. H. Brownson has found it breeding not rarely at Cape Elizabeth. Two distinct colonies, one of several pairs are

known in Westbrook, and its nest has been found in Gorham. Colonies also exist in Scarborough.

Late in June, 1896, I detected the presence of a small number in St. George. This has already been recorded by Mr. Knight, (Bds. of Me. p. 100), together with data indicating its presence near Lewiston, Bridgton, Farmington, Gardiner, Norway and in Waldo county, also at Corinth.

At Norway it was regarded as "Common" by Prof. A. E. Verrill in 1862, (Proc. Essex. Inst. III p. 150). This is not surprising as other Alleghanian features occur in the vicinity of Norway.

Junco hyemalis (Linn.). Junco, Slate-colored Junco, Snow-bird, Blue Snow Bird Blue Chip, etc.

Occurs throughout the year, not common through the winter, extremely abundant during migrations, common summer resident in a large part of the state. Being a bird of the Canadian fauna it does not breed in much of the lower lands of southwestern Maine, yet it is a common summer resident and breeds in part of York county, being so found in East Parsonfield in 1900, it was however confined to the highlands.

Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown has furnished an authentic record of isolated instances of its breeding in suitable localities in Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth, (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. IV, p. 107).

In August, 1897, I found it breeding quite commonly on little Johns Island, Falmouth, Me. which is covered with spruce. From this point the bird is common coastwise breeding to our eastern boundary. It abounds on many of the wooded islands, both outer and nearer ones. Matineus belonging to the outermost group of Islands in the state, deserves special mention as being the home in summer of considerable numbers of Juncos.

While ground nests are not regarded as furnishing beautiful examples of bird architecture, nests of the Junco, often stand high in this quality. Sometimes placed under brush by road side, often well under the side of an inclined rock, or within a recess in a steep ledge, they have been built of fine grasses and well lined with cattle's hair, the finish being so perfect that they had a highly polished ap-

pearance; beautiful as these have been, richer still were a few well within spruce woods, built in beds of green moss, beneath canopies of the beautiful and fragrant crowberry *Empetrum-nigrum*, where it had crept across low spruce limbs.

Two broods undoubtedly are produced in a season, as some pairs frequently have finished laying during the first week of May, while nests with eggs are common in July, and the young just out of the nest are numerous in August.

While ordinarily a ground nesting species, instances which are probably exceptions are on record. (New Eng. Bird Life 1, p. 262. Davie, Nests and eggs of N. A. Birds. 3d. p. 310).

Melospiza cinerea melodia (Wils.)
Song Sparrow.

Common summer resident and breeder throughout the state being the commonest member of the group.

It is of rather rare occurrence in winter, though it seems to be regular coastwise.

While our most abundant species, this bird was omitted from Dr. Holme's list of 1861, first appearing in Prof. Hitchcock's list in the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History in 1862, (Vol. I, pt. I.), though Wilson had stated that he had found it in every district of the United States from Canada southward.

Melospiza lincolni (Aud.). Lincoln's Sparrow, "Tom's Finch."

This sparrow has been found in much less abundance in Maine than our other two representatives of the genus, with which it associates. Though less rare than has been previously indicated it cannot be considered even as tolerably common, according to our present information.

It is a migrant occurring both in spring and fall. Neither Holmes, Hitchcock, Boardman, Verrill, nor Maynard and Brewster, made mention of it in their respective lists, which fact seems to have led Dr. Brewer in 1874 to specially comment upon the fact that it had not been found in Maine. (Hist. N. Am. Birds.)

Mr. Everett Smith was the first to include it in a list of Maine birds. He treated it as a regular migrant arriving in May and quickly passing to the north and east. (Birds of Maine,

Forest & Stream XIX, No. 25, Jan. 18, 1883, p. 484.)

Mr. Knight rejecting the foregoing statement reported it "Rare for Washington county, in spring only," according to the information of Mr. Boardman, and also recorded the capture of a female at Westbrook, Sept. 20, 1896, by the writer, in whose collection it still is. (Bds. of Me. p. 101.). Upon the information of Mr. N. A. Eddy, the same author recorded the capture of a specimen near Bangor, May 18, 1882. (Knight Me. Sportsman, Vol. 6, No. 63, Nov., 1898, p. 20).

On September 25, 1897 a male was taken at Westbrook by the writer: this is now in the collection of H. L. Spinney.

In 1899, J. C. Mead recorded a specimen now in the collection of Bridgton Academy, which was taken at North Bridgton during the fall of 1879. (Journ. Me. Orn. Soc. I, p. 31).

In 1898 two specimens were taken on the lantern of Seguin Light station, one on Sept. 11 and another on Sept. 24. On this last date others were said to have occurred.

In 1899 four were observed under the same conditions at Seguin between the date of Oct. 6 and 13. The full account of these occurrences were given by Capt. H. L. Spinney in the Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society Volume II, pp. 19-20. (Cf. also Vol. V, pp. 56, 57 and 58.).

On May 12, 1900, a male was taken at Westbrook, and is in the collection of the writer. Hence we have two definite spring records, one on the date of May 12 and the other on May 18, while in the fall its occurrence has been detected between the dates of Sept. 11 and October 13.

While now known in Maine only as a migrant, the bird should be carefully looked for breeding in the northern parts of the state, especially upon the Appalachian highlands.

Melospiza georgiana (Lath.). Swamp Sparrow.

A summer resident of general distribution, resorting to swamps and lagoons for the purpose of breeding, often in situations suitable to Red-winged Blackbirds, but occasionally it breeds in less boggy ground. Hence its distribution during the breeding season is necessarily localized. In autumn it swarms in rush

grown valleys, and wild weed patches near water, as well as the swamps, and ever at this season strays to drier situations.

Its chirp of alarm has a rich metallic quality much like that of *Zonotrichia albicollis*. While its song bears a general resemblance to that of *Spizella socialis* it is considerably stronger and rather more musical.

Passerella iliaca (Merr.). Fox Sparrow.

A migrant, of general distribution, being common both fall and spring. In spring it is extremely abundant coastwise, certainly as far east as the west side of Penobscot Bay. At this season it is in full song as it passes through Maine, and its rich tones challenge admiration whenever heard.

Like all of its relatives it is an industrious destroyer of seeds and insects. It obtains its food by scratching among leaves supplementing the work of the species which feed upon the stems by bringing to "The grinding" much that would otherwise be sown.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus (Linn.). Towhee, Chewink.

This the most strictly Alleghanian finch of Maine is of regular though uneven distribution in the southwestern part of the state. Its distribution corresponds somewhat closely with that of the Scrub-Oak *Quercus nana*, not being general in either York, Oxford, Cumberland, or Sagadahoc counties, though in these the birds are in more numbers than elsewhere, and it would seem in some spots even rather common. Near Portland a few small colonies exist during the breeding season.

During the migrations they often appear in unusual places but even then they are not general even in southwestern Maine.

Cardinalis Cardinalis (Linn.) Cardinal.

Of accidental occurrence. While Mr. Smith indicates that Cardinals have been taken in a few instances, he cites no particular ones.

Mr. Knight records the capture of a female at Gardiner, Me., Dec. 19, 1895, by Homer R. Dill. The bird is now in Mr. Knight's collection. (Maine Spts., Nov. 1898, Vol. 6, No. 63, p. 20). The report in his "Birds of Maine" was based upon incorrect information.

Zamelodia ludoviciana (Linn.). Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Not uncommon in the interior south of the Appalachian highlands, and in the upper St. John valley, as a summer resident, but it seems to be rare southeasterly. Coastwise it is rare and seems to occur only as a migrant. There seems to be no present information of its occurrence (or in fact of the contrary) upon these highlands.

It appeared to be in some degree irregular in its choice of a summer home.

Cyanospiza cyanea* (Linn.). Indigo Bird.

Common in southwestern Maine as a summer resident and breeding species. While reported in such distant parts of the state as the St. Croix valley, (Boardman in Knights Bds. of Me., p. 103) and at Caribou (Allen, Journ. Me. Orn. Soc. III, pp. 11, 12.) it seems to be rare or absent in considerable areas of the state. It is of general distribution in York and Cumberland counties except the islands of the latter.

In passing from Portland to Upton it has been found general by the roadside throughout the Sebago valley, and in the Androscoggin valley as far as Newry where it has disappeared. Along the coast, easterly the bird has not been found with any degree of abundance or regularity.

It has been reported rare at St. George by Mr. Fred Rackliff (Knights Bds. of Me., p. 103). A bird seen at Isle Au Haut late in June, 1903, by James T. Conley must have been a male of this strangely marked species. In the maritime towns of Washington county from Jonesport easterly I have not seen it.

Present data indicates that its distribution coincides rather closely with that of the last species, though its center of abundance is in the southwestern part of the state, differing in this particular from that species.

Spiza americana (Gmel.). Black-throated Bunting, Dickcissel.

Only three examples known.

**Cyanospiza ciris*. (Linn.). Painted Bunting. An adult male of this species, which had clearly escaped from captivity was found dead in the yard of Miss C. S. Eastman, in Portland, June 10, 1904. It was taken to Mr. W. H. Brownson, by whose kindness it came into my hands and has been preserved.

One a young male taken at Jobs Island, Camden, Me., Sept. 29, 1884, by Mr. Chas. W. Townsend, (Auk. II, p. 106).

The second specimen, a young male was taken at Westbrook, Oct. 10, 1888, by Mr. Ralph H. Norton, and is now in the collection of the writer. (Auk. XI, pp. 78-79, also Auk. X, p. 302).

The third specimen is recorded by Mr. Knight, (as indeed are the other two), this was taken by Mr. Fred Rackliff in St. George. (Bds. of Me., p. 104). This one was lost.

NOTE.

Colaptes lapponicus Through the kindness of Mr. Fanning, my attention has been called to the fact that the Langspur taken by him at Lubec was not preserved, as reported on page 44 of this Journal, Vol. VI. It is not extant. Neither Mr. Fanning, nor Prof Stanton are in any way responsible for the error.

FEEDING HABITS OF THE TURNSTONE.

(*Arenaria interpres*, Linn.)

It has been my custom for several years to spend a portion of the early fall among the outer islands of the coast of Maine, where during the migrations the *limicolae* or shore birds as they are commonly termed are quite plentiful even at this late day.

It has been my good fortune to make many a good bag of the larger species of this, to me, interesting family, but I find of late that my inclination to study the habits of these graceful, pretty creatures is gradually outweighing the old desire to possess them as dead game, and although I build my "blind" each season as usual on the same pebbly beach I find the trusty hammerless rests most of the time across a log, speechless and almost forgotten, while with a good pair of bird-glasses I am intent upon watching the movements of hundreds of the handsome gray and white bodies moving up and down the shore.

To all nature lovers the feeding habits of birds are extremely interesting, and this is none the less true of the dainty little waders whose shapely limbs and immaculate plumage are kept scrupulously clean from their constant ablutions in old ocean and whose life-history seems more of a mystery to us than those of the woodland birds.

Year after year I have located my "blind," a collection of driftwood, broken lobster pots and seaweed at a point invariably visited, even in these days of scarcity, by hundreds of the smaller shore birds, together with a never failing flight of Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) Linn., those trim yet stocky vermilion footed birds of the well known upturned bill, and here in the quiet and solitude of this out of the way place I have been favored with unusual opportunities for observing the feeding habits of the lesser waders and particularly of the Turnstone.

"Rock Bird" or "Rock Plover," the natives hereabouts call them, while to the city gunner they are known as the Chicken Plover or Calico Back. Their A. O. U. cognomen is rarely applied to him in his native haunts and as Turnstone he is seldom known outside of the books.

How many of our members have ever had the pleasure of watching *Arenaria interpres* feed utterly unconscious of intrusion?

When first alighting he is as motionless as the stone which his bright hazel eye selected for a resting place, and if there be any suspicious movement in the vicinity, feeding for him for the time being is out of the question. But if the coast is clear and the smaller fry, the peeps, the whiting and the ringnecks are busy gleaning from the shore their morning or noonday meal he presently descends from his perch and goes about breaking his fast in a very matter of fact fashion.

As to moral character I have always found him a pugnacious bully and woe betide the little peep or even larger bird that gets in his way. He quickly lowers his chuckle head and jabs them right and left with his stout, sharp bill and it must hurt too, for it is a formidable weapon in its way and unlike the bills of the other waders that associate with him on his feeding ground.

I have often seen him fight his own brethren and drive away from his chosen feeding place what were evidently the younger or weaker members of the flock. On one occasion I watched a pair fight, or rather threatening to fight, after the manner of young roosters in a barnyard. They would face each other with out-

stretched and ruffled necks and remain in this comical position with their bills almost touching for several seconds, perhaps the outcome of a dispute over the possession of a particularly fat sand flea.

It is true that the Turnstone will quickly turn over a shell or pebble with his oddly shaped bill in his search for food, this habit being characteristic and generally known to students of ornithology, but his unique peculiarity of rooting, if I may so term it, is something I have never seen him given credit for by any observer of bird life. I use the word rooting advisedly for his procedure is nothing else (unless you were to call it shoveling) and resembles the *modus operandi* of the pig when searching for food beneath the surface.

During the past fall a portion of the cove where my shooting blind was erected was filled with a bank of seaweed washed in by a severe No'East-er. This wall was over two feet high and though mostly composed of rockweed and Irish moss was intermixed with sand fragments of shell and debris from the sea bottom and was fairly alive with sand fleas and probably other insects. As it gradually dried it made a fine feeding ground for the shore birds who resorted to it daily in large numbers.

Now with one exception every species observed by me gleaned its food from this primitive yet bountiful table in an orderly, respectful and dignified, yes I might say dainty manner without displacing a piece of shell or sprig of moss or weed. Most of their food would be taken from the surface with an occasional delicate probing. The exception was the Turnstone.

He would select a likely spot on the loosely packed moss and go at his work with a vim and rapidity entirely different from the other species. Underneath the bits of weed moss and fragments of shell his sharp upturned bill would swiftly go and a perfect shower of these would soon be falling in front and beside him. Finding a morsel to his taste he would devour it in much less time than it takes to relate it and the rooting and tossing of the bits into the air would continue. At times quite sizeable fragments of shell and pieces of moss more than an

inch in length would be thrown fully seven or eight inches above the birds head, and this he would keep up with scarcely an instants pause for a quarter of an hour and until he had excavated a pit large enough to almost conceal his plump mottled body. Occasionally he would turn about in his tracks but as a rule he worked in one direction.

My champion digger as I termed him on this particular occasion now became alarmed at the sudden approach of a Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*) which swept swiftly down among the large flock of shore birds, sending them scurrying off in every direction to places of safety, but with the passing of his hawkship they were quickly back again and my Turnstone or one like him alighted this time close to my blind so near in fact that glasses were of no assistance in observing him. The exact distance I afterwards ascertained was just nine feet from where I sat and he gave me from this vantage point another exhibition of what he could do in the way of excavating.

He stood still for a moment and then walking a few steps commenced as before, and everything small enough for him to move that stood between him and his dinner was sent flying into the air.

It occurred to me to time the chap this time in his feat of tunneling. He scarcely paused in his work for ten minutes and in that short time he had dug a trench long enough and deep enough to completely hide his body, his head only being visible and this scarcely in sight at times, a feat I could hardly credit my own eyes with seeing.

On he dug, the minutes passing until watching him at his work became a trifle monotonous and to vary the thing I tossed a pebble over near him. He raised his pretty mottled head paused a moment and went at his rooting as before.

Again I dropped a bit of shell near him and he again paused and scanned the surroundings but a good digestion waited on appetite in his case evidently and again search for food was continued. At last I sent a large muscle shell his way and that proved more than he could stand in the way of bombardment for stepping out of his trench and catching sight of me

laughing at him around the corner of my blind he spread his handsomely marked wings and gracefully sailed down to the waters edge.

FRANK T. NOBLE,
Augusta, Maine, Nov. 27, 1903.

NOTES ON THE WARBLERS FOUND IN MAINE.

(Continued from Vol. VI. P. 41)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE WILSON'S WARBLER.

[J. Merton Swain.]

Sylvania pusilla (Wils.)

Geographical Distribution. This species winters in Eastern Mexico and Central America.

In migration it is more or less common in eastern N. A. west to the Rocky Mountains. The breeding range is from the northern border of the United States and Rocky Mountains northward.

This is one of our rarest Warblers known to nest in eastern North America. In some localities in the state it is more or less common during the spring migration. Yet the bulk of these birds go to the northward to breed, and migrate south to Eastern Mexico and Central America. They are seen usually in pairs during the migration period, usually in knolly, bushy pastures, usually near the water. They arrive here about the second week in May. The males are in full song when they arrive and usually commence nest building very soon after their arrival.

The first record of its nesting I am able to find a description of was taken by our late fellow worker, Clarence H. Morrell at Pittsfield, although reference to its nesting in the state is made in Walter's "Birds of Androscoggin County," page 9, and Bacheller, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. 7, p. 110. Mr. Morrell found two nests of this bird, one on June 12th, 1892, the other, June 4th, 1897. For these descriptions I can do no better than to quote his notes published in *The Osprey*, Sept. '99, page 5, (although his sister, Miss Ethel B. Morrell, has kindly given me access to her brothers' copious notes at any time.)

"Wilson's Warbler may be safely classed as one of the rarest Warblers which breed regularly in this state. It is nowhere common, even as a

migrant, arriving during the second week in May with the main army of migrating Warblers. I always see it singly or in pairs, never in flocks, at this time. They are birds of the bush, never going into large woods as do the Black-throated Green and Black-burnian Warblers, but spend the summer in knolly, bush-grown pastures bordering young growths. The males are in full song when they arrive, and not much time is spent before nest-building commences. The nest is placed under a tuft of grass, or at the base of a shrub, and so well concealed that it is seldom found, unless by accident. If two nests are sufficient data to warrant conclusions, it would seem that they differ principally from those of other ground-building Warblers in the simplicity of material used and in their small size.

A nest found June 12, 1892, was placed at the base of a small shrub, and was mainly constructed of short pieces of grass, fairly well woven together, with a very few hairs mingled with the grass lining, and some moss and leaves exteriorly. This nest contained four nearly fresh eggs, and measured as follows: Outside top diameter 3.00x3.50 inches; inside top diameter 1.75, inside depth 1.25.

A second nest found June 4th, 1897, was in the side of a depression in the ground, well concealed by overhanging grass and shrubs. It was constructed like the first one, with the exception of the hair, in the place of which were a few black, hair-like roots. This nest also contained four eggs, in which incubation was advanced. In both instances the parent bird was flushed from the nest and remained near, flitting from bush to bush, but not displaying great solicitude, either by voice or action. The eggs have the plain white ground with spots of brown and red of various shades, common to most Warbler eggs. The markings have a tendency to wreath the larger end in some specimens, and spots rather than blotches seem the rule; but there is nothing that would distinguish them with certainty from the eggs of other ground-nesting Warblers.

In addition to these nests I have frequently seen these Warblers leading a callow brood about in June, and have come to regard them as regular, though rare, summer residents in this

vicinity. Though Dr. Cones, in his description of this species in the "Key" says: "female—lacking the black cap," this can hardly be a constant feature, as I have carefully noted the appearance of the parents when I have found them with nests or young

and always find the cap present with both. Wilson's Warblers do not tarry long after the broods are reared and are able to care for themselves, and few are found here after the first of September."

Mr. Morrell's remark as to the fe-



FEMALE WILSON'S BLACKCAP ON NEST.

Hermion Bog, Hermion, Me., June 1, 1902.

male having the black cap too, seems to be correct, as I have noted the same, though the cap on the female seems to be not so black and distinct as in the male. The accompanying photograph of the female on the nest shows the cap quite distinctly.

The next instance of breeding in the state I find was made by Mr. L. W. Brownell of New York, near Bangor. I wrote Mr. Brownell for data and received the following: "The two nests of Wilson's Warbler taken by me near Bangor in June, 1900. No. 1

was taken at Bangor on June 19th. It contained four fresh eggs. The nest was placed on the ground, well hidden in a small clump of grass, at the foot of an alder sapling. It was composed entirely of skeletonized leaves, dried grass with one or two

horse-hairs in lining was a very frail structure and came to pieces when removed. Its measurements were: Outside diameter 3 inches; inside diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; outside depth 2 in.; inside depth $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Eggs measured: .58x.45, .60x.46, .60x.45, .59x.45.



NEST AND EGGS OF WILSON'S WARBLER.

Hermion Bog, Hermion, Me., June 1, 1902.

Both old birds were seen and identification was complete.

The date of the finding of the second, I do not exactly remember but was about 10 days later or about June 29. The nest contained well fledged young, in fact they left the nest while

I was looking at them. The nest was similar in every respect to the first, perhaps a trifle stouter and placed in a position almost identical with that in which the first one was placed. The old birds approached me very closely, feeding their young within a

couple of feet of my hand." His brother, C. L. Brownell, who was with him that season, writes me: "Personally I am convinced that *Wilsonia pusilla* is not so uncommon as is generally supposed, but its eggs remain rare because of the difficulty in locating its nest, which it conceals to perfection. While at or near Bangor, I disturbed at least a half dozen pair which undoubtedly had nests near me, but in no case could I locate them." I find no other records of nests being found in the State except one found by the writer on June 1st, 1902. The locality was the edge of the Hermon Bog, and was discovered but a few moments after the finding the nest of *D. p. hypochrysea* as described by Prof. Knight in his article on this species, in the JOURNAL Vol. VI Apr. No. p. 39. The description of the nesting site of *pusilla* is identical with his description of *hypochrysea*, except that it was at the edge of the bog, some 100 yards from the nest of *hypochrysea*. Soon after we located the nest of the Yellow Palm, as we were about to leave the bog, I flushed a small bird from a nest, well concealed under a thick mass of grasses and weeds at the foot of an alder bush. I could not make sure what it was, at first thinking it to be a Yellowthroat, but on seeing the nest and eggs I thought it was the Nashville. Both birds kept flitting near the nest, but kept well hid in the dense growth, but I soon got a glimpse of the female. I was not quite sure what it was and called Prof. Knight.

We silently watched the birds occasionally getting a quick glance at the female. When we both saw the male with the heavier cap markings, we excitedly exclaimed: Wilson's Black-cap! Tying my handkerchief to a bush near the nest, we hastened with Mr. Billings and Mr. Hall to our wheels and pedaled back to Bangor for the camera and outfit, hastening back, as it was getting well along toward eve. On arriving at the bog, we easily located our white flag and soon had a photo of the nest and eggs. Then leaving the camera adjusted we concealed ourselves as far from the camera as the rubber tubing would allow, with bulb in hand we waited for a snap shot at the female, when she should return to the nest. I dare not attempt a pen picture of us two concealed in the short, thick bushes,

sweat begrimed, faces covered with cobwebs, eyes bright with enthusiasm waiting for *pusilla* to return to the nest. Nor do I need to try to tell you how numerous were the mosquitoes, that made life miserable for us, for, I think the most of my readers can picture it all in their minds. At last the critical moment came and we had perhaps, snapped the camera for the first time, on a female Wilson's Black-cap on the nest. We herewith give you the two exposures made by Prof. Knight.

The nest was made up outside of fine dead grasses (neatly woven, yet a frail structure) lined with fine grasses and a very few horsehairs. It measures: Outside diam. 3.50 in. Inside diam. 1.50. Outside depth 2.25, inside dept 1.25 in.

The eggs were five in number with a dull white ground finely dotted over the entire surface with cinnamon-rufous and lavender-gray, forming a slight wreath about the larger end. They measure, .60x.48, 58x47 .60x48, 59x.49, .59x48. The eggs were perfectly fresh.

Wilson's Black-cap is often seen in company with the Canadian Warbler during the migration season. Their manner of feeding somewhat resembles that of the Canadian species. They feed in briery thickets, picking up insects very nimbly. They have the talents of a Flycatcher, and capture much of their food on the wing, but do not like the Flycatcher return to the same perch. It utters a pleasing song occasionally as it gleans for food which I am unable to describe or liken to any other Warbler.

Nuttall describes it, "tsh-tsh-tsh-tshea," while Goss writes it, zee-zee-zee-e, the latter would be my idea of it, with a rising inflection on the last e. Several people have mentioned seeing this Warbler with young, but I am unable to learn of any others who have seen the nest. I believe as stated previous, it is a more common nester throughout the Canadian Fauna, in this state than is commonly supposed, as there are many places in the Northern part of the state, where I would confidently look for this bird to be nesting.



Bird Notes.

THE EDITOR'S VISIT TO SEGUIN.

During the middle of May, the associate editor spent a most enjoyable and profitable vacation at Seguin Island, the guest of our worthy president, Capt. H. L. Spinney, and was fortunate in adding many fine specimens of sea fowl to his collection. The Captain proved himself a most hospitable host, as well as an expert surfer and crack shot, being at all times perfectly "at home" in his dory among the surf covered rocks of this dangerous locality.

One of the Capt's. many accomplishments is the surprising ability to "call" with an unearthly screech, the flight Loons in from sea and over the decoys, a feat never before witnessed by "ye editor," and although he had heard of such a thing, never really believed it possible—the Capt. can do the trick however.

The Captain's home is a veritable museum and his mounted collection of New England birds (very rich of course in sea fowl) is the pride not only of himself, but of his estimable wife and charming daughter.

Long may he remain in his faithful care of this grand and famous light, whose beacon has guided so many toilers of the sea to a safe harbor.

AN UNUSUAL NEST OF THE OLIVE BACKED THRUSH.

I would note the finding of a rather unusual nest of the Olive Backed Thrush—*Turdus ustulatus swainsonii*—(Cab.) at Solon, Maine, May 29, 1904. The nest was in the upper limbs of one of a small grove of pine saplings near the bank of the Kennebec river. It was located close to the trunk at the junction of two limbs and was nearly thirteen feet from the ground.

It was a very bulky affair and measured ten inches over all, the longest way, by 5 inches, and was composed of dry twigs and grape vine bark, and old grass and weed stalks. Various kinds of dry, last year leaves were worked in among the other material as the nest was being constructed. A few pine needles and some horse hair were used in both the outer and inner parts, but no attempt appears to have been made at a lining. The entire

outside of the nest is covered with large, dry oak leaves. The nest proper was located at one end of the mass and handsomely finished for so careless a builder. The eggs were four in number of the usual pale greenish blue, but were *entirely free from spots*, not one of them showing the slightest trace of markings of any kind. They were nearly uniform in size, measuring as follows: 93x68, 90x69, 89x69, 88x68. The height at which the nest was placed and the absence of spots or blotches on the eggs make this set decidedly at variance with those usually found and described. There is no question as to the identity of the bird.

FRANK T. NOBLE.

Augusta, Me., June 10, 1904.

BOBWHITE.

Poor Bobwhite, the past winter has without doubt proved a Waterloo for them in this state and doubtless the mortality has been severe.

From the meager accounts that came to the JOURNAL from correspondents within our borders it is pitiably plain that nearly all of the few coveys which were striving for an existence here have perished from starvation and the extreme cold.

It was the hope of all lovers of these interesting and beautiful game birds that the little fellows who had ventured over our borders might thrive but at this writing it would seem otherwise.

In the vicinity of North Bridgton where some stray birds were seen last year none have appeared thus far that we can learn of.

From Kennebunk comes the sad tale from a local observer that a small flock endeavored to winter near his home, that they appeared to be suffering from lack of food, and that like a good Samaritan he fed them. One morning two of the covey were missing and from the footprints in the snow it was plain that a fox had captured them. A day or two later during an unusually cold spell he reports finding the rest of the flock all dead under a tree, where they had apparently frozen to death, their end being doubtless hastened by lack of proper food.

In examining reports from other states more favorably situated as to

climate the same great mortality is noted during the past extreme winter, and it would seem that some artificial means must be adopted if these birds are to be preserved.

The Bulletin of the Penna. Department of Agriculture advocates catching the Quail in traps in the fall and keeping them housed and properly fed during the winter, liberating them in the early spring to breed. This plan may yet prove the only practical way in which the birds can be preserved to us in Maine.

We regret that the JOURNAL has received so few reports on the wintering of Bobwhite from its correspondents, but probably their non appearance this spring explains all too forcibly why we have not.

BOBWHITE AT CLIFF ISLAND, MAINE.

In the spring of '99 while at Cliff Island, Casco Bay, Me., looking after breeding colonies of gulls, terns and petrels, as we were making trips in a dory to Outer Green and Junk-of-Pork, The Brown Cow and other adjacent islands, we passed near Jewell's Island, and I heard the unmistakable call, Bobwhite! Bobwhite! and upon inquiry, my guide informed me he had heard a Bobwhite on Cliff Island but a few days before. He informed me that the owner of Jewell's Island, Mr. McKenney of Phila., Pa., had brought some of these birds to the island and liberated them. We at once pulled across the channel to Jewell's Island. At the cottage we found Mrs. McKenney and her two daughters, who, when told that we had come to inquire about the Bobwhite, asked us to be seated upon the veranda and informed us that they had brought twelve of these birds with them the year before and liberated them on the island. They have cattle and horses which they leave on the island in care of a man who lives there through the winter. When snow came in the fall the Bobwhite came and fed with the hens in the yard, remaining about there all the winter. She said that they had not been back long enough to learn how these birds were getting along, and asked us to take a look about the island. Jewell's Island is a large outer island of some two miles in

length and nearly one mile in width in places, mostly heavily wooded with scrub spruce and fir, but at the upper end we found a field that was cleared. At the edge of the field near the buildings we were greeted with mellow whistles, Bobwhite! Bobwhite! soon to be answered by a similar call not far away. We secreted ourselves and I began to whistle an imitation call, which to my great pleasure was soon answered. But though "Bob" frequently answered my call, I could not succeed in calling him from his hiding place. On moving across the field, we flushed a bird which went whirring across lots to a cover near by. We flushed seven or eight birds during our rambles about the island. It was then nearing the breeding season. We returned to the cottage and Mrs. McKenney requested us to post some A. O. U. warning notices about the island, and stated that occasionally so-called sportsmen came to the island, shooting any kind of birds that came within range, although her man always warned them off. We posted the notices and hoped the little fellows who were struggling for existence during the long, cold winter on this outer, bleak island, might be prevented from falling a victim to the ruthless gunner. The following two seasons I made a trip to Cliff Island, intending to go across to Jewell's to learn how fared *Colinus*, but both trips the surf was running high and we could not make the trip across in a dory with safety. But Mr. Walter Rich, one of our fellow members, saw several Bobwhite along the Falmouth Foreside or Cumberland shore, and I concluded some of the Jewell's Island birds had flown across to the mainland. Several other reports of the occurrence of these birds along the mainland would go to prove the above theory. This will help to demonstrate the fact that *Colinus* is capable of withstanding our long, cold winters, and we hope to make a visit to Jewell's Island this season to learn further of the fate of the Bobwhite. J. M. S.

June 1, 1903.

Dana Sweet of Avon writes the JOURNAL that he observed a Canada Jay in that town Nov. 12, 1903, also that a species of the Rough Legged

Hawk was brought to him for identification that was shot Nov. 27, 1902, in Freeman, a nearby town in Franklin County.

NOTES FROM PORTLAND AND VICINITY.

Mr. W. H. Brownson of Portland writes the JOURNAL that he has recently visited the colony of Black Crowned Night Herons at Falmouth and that it is still flourishing. The birds now build in the tops of the tallest trees. Several pairs of Olive-sided Flycatchers—*Contopus borealis*—(Swains) are spending the summer in the Cape Elizabeth woods. These woods were very prolific of Warbler life during the present spring, he counting no less than 19 distinct species during their migrations.

While others are wondering at the scarcity of our old friends, the Cowbirds—*Molothrus ater*—(Bodd), this keen observer noted during the last days of April a flock of some 25 on the "Cape," where they remained several days.

He chats interestingly with us as follows:

"It gives me pleasure to report a pair of Crested Flycatchers and a promising family at Douglas Hill, in the town of Sebago, this county. I recently spent a couple of days there with a party of friends, all bird lovers, and within half an hour after our arrival we discovered the Flycatchers and a little later their nest, which was in a hole in an apple tree not forty feet from the piazza of the hotel. It was about seven feet from the ground and all in the party had a chance by means of a step-ladder to inspect the nest, which contained several young birds, the exact number not being ascertained on account of the depth of the hole and the wish not to disturb the old birds. I sat more than an hour one morning and watched the birds bringing food to their family, one staying at the nest while the other went afield, and taking turns in the labor of caring for the young.

In the woods near by at this same place we found Juncos with young, and watched the old birds feeding a little one. This is a fairly high elevation on the side of the Douglas mountain, which probably account

for the juncos breeding in this locality. Several yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen only a few miles away on the road to Baldwin.

Last year in Scarborough on the top of Scottow's hill a colony of purple Martins nearly all starved to death during a long spell of continuous rainy weather. Just one pair of the birds was left and this year just one pair has come to the martin house. I have little doubt that they are the same pair. In the martin house a pair of English Sparrows are living and in the rear of the same bird house a pair of tree Swallows are evidently breeding."

THE RED HEADED WOODPECKER

(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linn.))

AT CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE.

May 15, at Cape Elizabeth, in company with Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, I saw a red-headed woodpecker in full plumage. Last fall I saw one in the same locality, but it was in immature plumage, with head and breast brown instead of red. This year the red-head staid more than a week where Mr. Norton and I first found it and a number of observers were able to find it on being directed to the locality. Later a red-head was reported to me from Diamond island, perhaps two miles farther north, and it was very likely the same bird, but with it was also another showing immature plumage, probably a bird of last year, and a mate to the other. I have not been informed whether they have been observed to be breeding.

W. H. BROWNSON,
Portland, Me., June 22, 1904.

NESTING OF THE MEADOW LARK IN WINTHROP, ME.

Early in June my cousin from Portland was visiting in Winthrop and while strolling through a large field, he came across the nest and flushed the bird, which he thought must be a Meadow Lark. He showed the nest to us and it was, sure enough, a Meadow Lark's with five eggs in it. The nest was built as usual, with the covering over it. The Meadow Lark is getting to be a rather common nester in the Kennebec Valley in this State.—ED.

On Aug. 4th, while waiting for a train at No. Jay, Me. in Franklin Co. I heard Barn Swallows under the pavillion of the R. R. station. On investigation I found they had built two nests and both nests contained young. I watched the parents feed the young, and as the train came rolling into the station, I watched the young draw themselves down into the nest, but after the train stopped, I saw them from the car window peeping up over the side of the nest at the big puffing, snorting monster that had several times each day run in along side of their home, to disturb their quiet life. Two weeks later, (Aug. 18), I observed both nests still contained young. This is rather an odd place for a Barn Swallow to rear its young, when we considered there are many barns near by, but these two pairs of swallows doubtless chose this noisy place to rear their young but just why they made this digression, I am unable to say.

J. M. S.

Mr. Chas. H. Danforth of Norway, Me., one of our members, writes us: White winged crossbills have been present here this summer which is somewhat unusual. I observed a flock of about fifty, July 3rd. They were feeding in fir trees and were as tame and unsuspicious as in winter.

The males were in excellent plumage but were not in song. I failed to find any immature birds in the flock. Since then I have observed adult birds on several occasions.—Ed

THE BLACK CAPPED TITMOUSE.

Unmindful of the cold and falling snow

The black capped titmouse sang his wintry lay,

Undaunted by the chilly winds that blow.

He piped a cheery The a-day-day-day!

Trilling saucy notes, seeming free from care,

He fluttered from hedge to fence, from fence to tree

Looking o'er mossy bark for his morning fare

Within crack or crevice, or bole to see

A grub or worm, to quiet hunger's call

With a The-a-day-day-day! devoid of fear

He sang again from an old stone wall,

Viewing my lingering presence near

Ere he fluttered down to the tangles of weeds,

Peering through the snows, waving precious seeds,

Scattering their treasures, for the Titmouse's needs.

ALICE B. WAITE,

South Lyme, Conn.

NOTES ON NESTING.

A BLUEBIRD'S NEST.

Last spring a pair of Bluebirds built a nest in a gatepost at the corner of our house. This was the first Bluebird's nest I had known to be built near the house, and I was very much pleased with my new neighbors.

They commenced building the nest April 14. By this time all the other Bluebirds had left, and these were the only ones that remained in the vicinity.

I found two eggs in the nest April 21, and two more April 24.

I couldn't quite see the gatepost from my sleeping room upstairs, but every morning as I awaked, I would hear one of the birds on a dead maple limb in front of my windows singing a cheery song to its mate on the nest down in the gatepost.

May 8, I looked into the nest again and found five young birds.

May 17, when I awoke in the morning I heard the usual sweet song of the Bluebird in the maple outside. I arose and went to the stable, and as I was leading the horse out to water, I heard a commotion near the Bluebird's nest, and looking in that direction I saw some robins flying about the gatepost. A moment later a red squirrel came up out of the hole in the post. I then noticed one of the Bluebirds flying in short circles above the nest. The robins, uttering fierce screams, darted one after another at the squirrel.

I got the horse back into the stall as quickly as possible and ran to the rescue. The old birds were sitting side by side on a maple limb just above the nest, and there was but one young bird in the nest. After a short search I found the squirrel sitting on a stone and holding in its front paws a baby Bluebird and eating it. I threw rocks at the scamp but wasn't lucky enough to hit him. After this the nest was never left unguarded, but one of the birds always remained on the limb over the nest.

The next morning I rose very early and taking a revolver with me, decided to help the birds in protecting their little home. Whenever I had looked into the nest previously, the bird on the nest had never stirred, but this morning she gave a quick

start, doubtless thinking that I was some monster after her last baby bird. I watched about but the squirrel didn't put in appearance. The day following I was obliged to be away, so I baited a box trap with an apple and set it near the post. The third morning as I went to investigate the apple had not been touched but the nest was now entirely empty. For several days the birds didn't sing but would sit silently side by side on a limb of some tree near by.

May 24, I heard the birds sing again in the orchard on the opposite side of the house from the nest. I investigated and found that a new nest had been commenced in a knot hole in an apple tree. By standing on tiptoe a few feet away from the tree, I could just see into the nest.

June 6, there were five eggs in the nest. The next time I went to the nest the old bird was on. When she saw me, she gave a quick start. I now felt certain that the birds that built this nest were the same ones that owned the nest in the post.

I looked again June 21 and found the nest empty. There were also two song sparrows' nests in the mossy banks of a brook near by that were robbed, one of five eggs, the other of five young birds. Near these three nests a pair of striped squirrels had a nest in a stone wall. After the gate-post tragedy I had procured a small rifle and made warfare on the squirrels, but didn't succeed in shooting the striped squirrels in the wall until it was too late. Before winter I had the squirrels all killed off, and I think next season the birds will find this a more attractive place.

I have written this to call attention to the destructiveness of these pests. Last year I knew of a robin's nest that was robbed of its eggs by a red squirrel. My uncle tells me that one day he found a striped squirrel in a phoebe's nest sucking the eggs. Several persons have told me of seeing squirrels running along with bird's eggs in their mouths.

As far as my observation goes, but a small number of bird's nests have their eggs hatch. In nesting time there are no nuts for squirrels to feed upon, and eggs and young birds probably form a large part of their diet. Wouldn't a bounty of one cent

for each squirrel's tail do as much good as the porcupine bounty?

A GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER'S NEST.

May 28, I started to weed out a strawberry patch. I had to pass through an orchard next to the house. A short distance from the house is an old apple tree. One of the largest limbs which was hollow had been sawed off. As I approached the tree, I saw a Crested Flycatcher hovering about among the branches with the tail outspread like a Kingbird, and soon its mate flew out of the hole. This same thing had occurred last year and I had waited hoping that the pair would make a nest here. I had been particularly anxious to see a Crested Flycatcher's nest and had often searched for one in the deep woods. As I saw the bird fly out this time, I realized that I had again come to the tree at an inopportune time. I was careful not to pass by the tree but made a wide detour around it.

After weeding out the strawberry bed, I removed a piece of board which had been used to cover up mulch. Under this was a green snake and a cast-off skin. Here was a streak of good luck. In the afternoon I went to the strawberry bed, and using two sticks for tongs, I carried the snake skin and put it under the apple tree. I had probably frightened the birds away last year, and I thought that their finding this snake skin might strike them as a good omen.

The next day as I was hoeing in the garden in sight of the tree, I heard them at about eight o'clock in the forenoon. I could see one of them flying about in the tree and heard what sounded like wild war whoops. I concluded that they had found my snake skin. Later in the day as I went out to investigate, I found the snake skin gone. I climbed up and looked in. There in the cavity was a nest made entirely of snake skins of various sizes. A large one would be broken up into three or four pieces. A small one into perhaps two pieces. At the entrance of the cavity, there were several pieces that hadn't been placed. The next day I heard another succession of screeches. Probably another snake skin had been brought in.

June 6, I examined the nest again. It was lined with fluffy Plymouth Rock hens' feathers, and seemed to be completed or nearly so.

June 10, I found one of the birds on the nest. At the entrance to the cavity was a small piece of skin covered with black bristles about an inch and a half long. Our next door neighbor was the town treasurer and perhaps they had found the tip end of a porcupine's tail. I went again the next day. The bird flew off before I got to the nest. I removed the tuft of bristly hair and reached in. There were three eggs. I took one out and examined it. It seemed to be slightly incubated. Before leaving the nest I replaced the tuft of hair so that the bird on returning might find everything in proper condition.

June 23, one of the birds seemed to be still sitting.

June 30, the birds were feeding their young. I took care not to go near the nest very often as I wanted them to return next year. When I thought they were nearly fully grown, I climbed up and looked in, but I was too late. There was about three or four stalks of dead June grass and nothing else. The birds had moved their furniture away. This tree, which is close to a fence and a large spreading rock maple, has been a favorite place for red squirrels, and I think the snake skins was what kept them away.

A CATBIRD'S NEST.

As I was walking along the road, June 17, I came to a place where the river runs close to the road. Across the river is a large, pebbly beach which is a favorite place for Sandpipers. On the side of the road opposite to the river is a small, level field. At one end of the field is a large bank covered with a second growth of hard wood. From up among the bushes and young trees came the liquid notes of the Spotted Sandpiper.

In nesting time, Sandpipers may be found far from water and often in queer places, but I had never known one to be in just such a place, and I thought it would be worth while to look into the matter. As I went along, the notes became interspersed with squeaks and whistles which sounded suspiciously like a Catbird.

Then followed the Catbird's usual song; and again I heard only the sweet, liquid "weet, weet" of the Sandpiper.

After I had gone some distance through the bushes and young trees, I came across a Catbird which silently watched me from the branch of a tall bush. A few more steps brought me to the singer. In a young sapling about eight feet up was a Catbird's nest. It was built of the usual coarse material, but was not bulky. It rested on a small, bare limb against the main trunk. The Catbird was sitting on the nest and singing the song of the Spotted Sandpiper. S.

Avon, Me.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

With the birds in Maine. By Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. Price \$1.10.

Those who have read Mrs. Miller's books on nature study, may well know what a pleasingly written book this is. It takes up several families of birds found in Maine and treats on them in a very pleasing and original way, giving the writers pleasant experiences with birds in different parts of the state. It will be a pleasure to all, to read this book.

Auk, The, XX, No. 2, Apr. '04.

A Review of the Wrens of the Genus Troglodytes, H. C. Oberholser U. S. Nat. Mus. report.

A Revision of the Am. Great Horned Owls, H. C. Oberholser U. S. Nat. Mus.

Description of seven new Species and Subspecies of Birds from Tropical America By Rob't Ridgway, Smithsonian Inst. No. 147.

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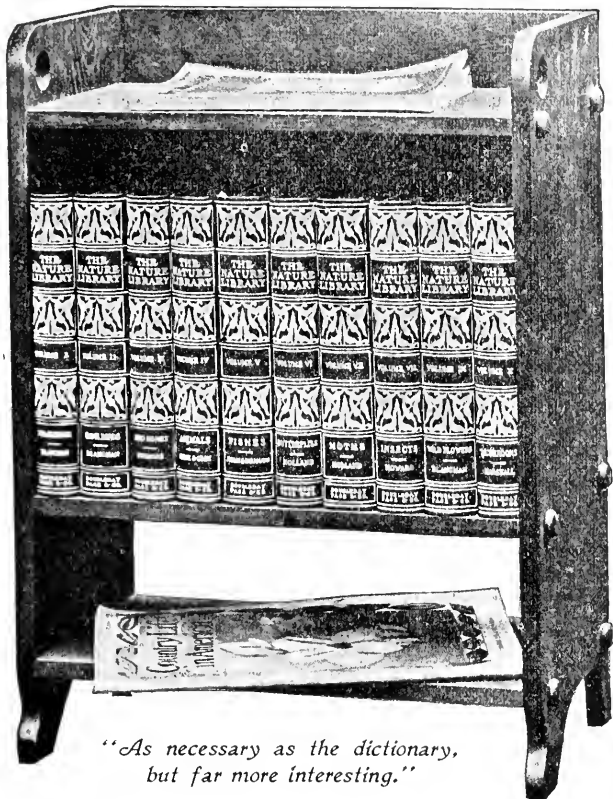
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VOL. VI.

FAIRFIELD, MAINE, OCTOBER, 1904.

NUMBER 4

The Maine Ornithological Society.

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Ninth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1904. at Bangor, Maine.

Entered as second class mail matter at Fairfield, Me.

Editorial Chat.

We have seen but few winter birds in the state thus far. A few flocks of Snowflakes and Tree Sparrows are about all that have come under our observation.

Our esteemed friend and fellow member, Mr. Frank M. Richards of Farmington, tells us that he has come to regard the Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, (Linn.) as a not uncommon visitor in Franklin county, having had several specimens brought to him to mount, and has had several observers report seeing the bird about his locality.

We regret that the JOURNAL comes to you again late. Yet we believe it is "better late than never." We hope to transpose the above for Vol. VII to "better never late." A full report of the ninth annual meeting will be given in the January number. Please note in another column Prof. Knights' notice relative to the revised edition of "The Birds of Maine." We hope to see its early completion, and trust our members and subscribers will be pleased that it is to be a more elaborate edition than was at first planned for.

Capt. Spinney writes: "I have a Greater Snow Goose, *Chen hyperborea nivalis* (Forst.), the second bird for the State. It was taken at Back River, an estuary of the Kennebec river, in Georgetown, Me., Apr. 25, 1903, by Winfield Todd, and is now in my collection. It is a male bird in first-class plumage and was alone when taken." He also states: The Amer-

ican Eider Ducks are very plenty, this winter. Large flocks of Purple-backed Sandpipers can be seen any day on the small ledges or islets. There was also a large flight of Duck Hawks, *Falco peregrinus*, here at the island during the fall. I never saw so many before."

Mr. F. B. Spaulding of Lancaster, N. H., one of our subscribers, whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Cambridge at the A. O. U. meeting, writes us as follows regarding the Wilson's Black-cap Warbler. "The nest of Wilson's Warbler, which is extremely rare and whose discovery was entirely accidental, was found May 30, 1894, on top of a small, grassy knoll in a swamp of two or three acres extent, within sixty rods of my home and not more than twenty-five rods from nearest house in outskirts of the village. When I first flushed the bird the nest was empty, but on June 6 the nest contained four eggs. The parent bird was caught on the nest. The eggs were heavily marked with large blotches of light brown, one being marked at the small end, presenting a peculiar appearance for a Warbler's egg. The nest was a slight affair of moss and fine grasses, lined with fine, dry grass and a little horse hair, sunken into the ground even with the surface. The ground was quite wet and covered with a sparse growth of small bushes. Other birds common in the locality were White Throated Sparrow, Md. Yellow-throat and Alder Flycatcher." We are very glad to get these notes on this rare nesting species as it adds another locality to the list of nests found, and makes a valuable addition to the notes on this Warbler that we published in the July number.

NOTES ON THE WARBLERS FOUND IN MAINE.

(Continued from Vol. VI, P. 62.)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE WATER THRUSH.

Scirurus noveboracensis (Gmel.)

[J. Merton Swain.]

Geographical Distribution. Eastern North America as far west as the Mississippi Valley.

Breeds from the northern United States, northward, south in winter to the Gulf States, West Indies, Northern South America.

This extremely interesting, thrush-like warbler seems to be a migrant in the southern counties of the state, but in the counties of the Canadian fauna it occurs as a summer resident, more or less common in some localities and seemingly scarce in others. I have observed it during the breeding season in Androscoggin, Franklin, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Kennebec, Oxford, Somerset and Waldo counties, while it is reported as breeding at Fort Fairfield in Aroostook Co. (Bacheller, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VII, p. 110.)

It arrives in Maine from May 1st to May 10th, usually about the 10th to the 15th in the interior of the state. The first arrival in the spring, I find in Capt. Spinney's notes, was seen on May 15, 1901, on the lantern at Seguin Light. The first mention I find in the notes of the late Clarence H. Morrell of Pittsfield, was on May 14, 1894. I have not found it a common bird in Franklin Co., at any time in the year, during the 15 years I have observed birds in that county. I looked for it during spring migrations for several years before it came to my notice. I did not see it until the spring of 1893, I was in Wilton in Franklin Co. on the early morning of May 12. I was out on a swampy marsh bordering the shore of a small pond. Suddenly a bird perched upon a low willow bush and gave utterance to a very thrilling song. Knowing, at once, it to be a new bird to me, I trained my glass upon it as it perched in plain view, and soon saw it was a Water Thrush. On May 18, 1902, Mr. Brownson first saw it in Portland and I saw it the same year in Waterville on May 7, as will be seen in Mr. Sweets' tabulation of the migration report of that year.

Mr. Geo. A. Boardman, in his list of the Birds of the St. Croix Valley, mentions this bird as "common-breeds."

It is an early fall migrant, in fact one of the earliest of our Warblers to begin its southern movement. I find the following dates of its appearance on the Seguin Island Light in Capt. Spinney's note-book. Sept. 19, 1893, Aug. 28 and Sept. 7, 1895. Aug. 5, 1896. Aug. 10 and 19, 1898, and in Mr. Morrell's notes: "Aug. 1, Water Thrushes are quite plenty along the shores of the pond." I have seen it in Kennebec county on Sept. 25th, while this last year the last bird I saw in Somerset county was on Aug. 29th.

It seems to be a fairly common nester in those counties in the Canadian fauna, though I have observed it more common in Somerset during the breeding season than in any other county. It is usually seen in May after its arrival about the shores of ponds and streams feeding on the ground, wagging its tail, a characteristic which readily helps to distinguish it from the Ovenbird, though occasionally it is seen some distance from the water. It is a beautiful singer. It has not the loud decided notes of the Ovenbird, but is a more musical vocalist. It utters its song at frequent intervals, and once heard is not soon forgotten.

Mr. Fred B. Spaulding of Lancaster, N. H., mentions this bird as nesting in his locality. I quote the following from our late fellow-member, Clarence H. Morrell's note book. "May 28, 1893, found a Water Thrush's nest with four eggs, which I left for more. May 29, got the Water Thrush's nest found yesterday. Nest was sunk in under hollowed out side of an old rotten stump, around which grew several maple trees. The cavity was hollowed out in under the stump, so that the nest was completely covered over. The nest was not very large but quite a thick structure of moss and leaves with a few weed-stalks. The lining was moss and grass and some red, hair-like moss-stems. The bird was on the nest and sat closely, not leaving the nest until I nearly touched her, and she stayed in the immediate vicinity as long as I was there, part of the time on the ground and part in the trees, always jilting her tail at rapid intervals and utter-

ing a sharp chirp. The nest was on a narrow strip of land with a pond on one side and the over-flowed marsh on the other. The nest contained but four eggs. Incubation fresh." This nest, Mr. Morrell told me, on one of our first trips up the pond, was the only one he ever located, though it was a fairly common nester about the pond. In June 1900, Mr. Morrell and I made several trips up the pond near his home in Pittsfield, and one of the birds we particularly sought was the Water Thrush. Several pairs were seen about the shores of the pond and on the small islands in the pond. On June 9th, while near the locality he mentions finding the nest in '93, while photo'ing nest of Parula, Ovenbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Tree Swallows, and several others I came upon a pair of anxious Water Thrushes. Watching the birds I thought to see them feed the young, which I presumed they had. I watched a long time but the birds were wary and had no idea of giving the nest-site away, so I began a search about the stumps and roots along the shore of the pond. While looking about the roots of a large rock maple stump, I discovered a nest with four young, evidently about two weeks old. When the parent birds saw me examining the nest they made a great deal of fuss about it. The nest was well concealed by being well hidden under a root of the stump and well covered over with weeds and ferns. It was placed about two rods back from the water's edge on dry ground. We got a photo of the nest and young. Soon after, I was looking about in a similar place, not many rods from the first nest, when I came across another nest at the base of a small clump of hemlocks, well concealed by the overhanging branches, and weed-stocks that grew in abundance about the clump of bushes. This nest too, contained four young, seemingly not more than a week old. Both these nests were made up of very similar material as that Mr. Morrell described in his notes as above.

The eggs are usually four in number, but sometimes five are laid, and with us they are usually laid about the last week in May. They are creamy-white, speckled and spotted with hazel and lilac, and cinnamon-rufous, usually most heavily at the

larger end, often forming a wreath about the larger end, and in size average about .78-.56. After the young leave the nest they feed about the shores of the ponds and in wet swampy places and in the latter part of August and early in September they begin their southern movement. While they are a bird with an attractive song, and in May they feed more or less about the foliage of trees for insect food, they are a bird not commonly seen by the new beginner, yet when one discovers the bird or has it pointed out, and once hears its bright and extremely pleasing song, it is an easy bird to distinguish about the shores of ponds or along the banks of rivers, as the frequent flit of its tail is a rather sure characteristic to distinguish it by. I have had no opportunity to examine the contents of its stomach, yet it feeds on some insect life found about the foliage of the trees near the water and feeds leisurely along the wet places in swamps along the shore, on water insects and some vegetable matter found in such places. It may be seen walking along at the waters edge, leisurely feeding, hopping up on a stick or stone, flitting its tail in a jerky manner then resuming its search for food.

[To be Continued.]

WHERE BIRDS ARE COMPANIONS.

(Read at the 8th annual meeting of the Maine Ornith. Society at Gardiner, Nov. 29th, 1904.)

Those who have visited the off shore light stations on our coast in summer, see them at their best. It is then that the flora of such places with the animated forms it supports, lends to the scene activity which at a later season of the year would have to be found under very different conditions.

If we would appreciate the feathered residents of our state, I know of no conditions that illustrate so well the barrenness of earth without them, as do one of those isolated islands on our coast. The first of December finds the migration south of our feathered friends nearly ended, as it is then only represented by a few song sparrows, juncos, now and then a belated warbler or thrush, and the harder sea birds of our coast.

Three months have changed the

scene from one of life and beautiful colors, to one of silence and dreariness. The struggling note of the savanna sparrow, the sharp cry of the kingbird as it pursues some intruder, or the twitterings of the spotted sandpiper as it tries to lead some enemy from the locality of its nest, have been exchanged for the booming and swashing of the sea upon the shore, varied now and then by the harsh discordant cry of some angry gull as it chases some more fortunate companion of its species, to steal from it the coveted morsel carried in its beak. Earlier in the season, only the barrenness of the larger rocks and ledges were to be seen, while later hundreds of smaller ones seem to rear their weathered heads above the dead and withered foliage of a departed summer.

Now and then the stillness is broken, by a shore lark as it passes overhead, or a small flock of snowflakes as for a few moments they alight, and then hurriedly resume their flight toward the main land. Clear days are followed by numbers of cloudy ones, accompanied with rain, fog, or snow. Sometimes, but not often, a snowy owl is seen, its white plumage in vivid contrast with the ledge upon which it rests, or again a cormorant as it dives around the island for its fare of fish, which it can secure only in that way. There are days of dreamy quietness when there is not wind enough to ripple the bosom of old ocean, and the angry booming of the sea is exchanged for a gentle swash upon the shore. Nothing breaks the stillness but the gentle flapping of sails and the creaking of booms of some vessel, as it slowly drifts along to some harbor or port.

Early in the day may be noticed the restlessness of the sea birds as they pass back and forth before our range of vision, and fishermen, if there, would be heard to say "This is a weather breeder, we shall get something to pay for this day, see how uneasy the birds are," and it seldom fails before twelve hours have passed that we do not have a storm. Usually at that time of year the activity of the birds is ended by eleven o'clock, but on such a day as mentioned, it lasts until late afternoon. The eider ducks may be seen passing both east and west in flocks of from six or more

to sometimes one hundred individuals, the white drakes contrasted by the reddish colored ducks, readily determining the species. As they pass along in straggling flocks but a few feet above the level of the sea, they will be seen at intervals of a few minutes to rise in air, scan the water before them, returning in a curve to their former level.

Again you may see flocks of scoter ducks acting much the same, but often flying much higher above the water than do the former. Occasionally a small squad of long-tail ducks will dash by, seeming to act as if they did not care if anything was in the way or not.

Now and then one or more of Holboell's Grebe pass by with extended neck in front and legs behind, resembling in shape an old fashioned bel-lows.

A black guillemot comes rolling along from side to side, looking as if it used, first one wing and then the other, and when seemingly doing its best, drops suddenly into the water like a ball, whirl around a number of times, and you could imagine it might say, it don't make much odds where I go, I might as well drop here as anywhere.

Other days come when the scene is opposite the one just described, days when old ocean beats in all its fury upon the rocky shore, and the wind shrieks and moans, and the clouds seem distorted with madness. Under those conditions are to be seen again, the same species of birds before described, some struggling against the fury of the gale just above the level of the waves, now and then rising suddenly in air to avoid the wrath of some more angry billow than the rest, whose crest is blown off by the wind, into the hollow left behind.

Flocks of Brunnich's Murre rush by before the wind, with no regulation as to flight, but seemingly in a go as you please race, while above the booming of the sea and shrieking of the gale, the sea gulls cry is heard as if in derision to the storm.

And thus mid-winter comes and with it days when not a bird is seen or heard, unless it be the croaking of a raven, as it scans the shore line for its food, or suddenly rising in the air, darts perpendicularly toward the earth, turning over and over in its

descent, and when the ground is nearly reached, swiftly remounts in air repeating such manœuvres many times.

And even that black, croaking form,
Seems like a friend that's long been gone.

And thus the days pass into weeks, and weeks pass slowly into months and March has come, and straggling sea birds warn us of the hosts that are behind, and as the month goes on, flocks of Brunnich's Murre, and dovekie are seen moving toward their northern breeding grounds. The eider ducks come next in flight, while gradually the scoters follow on.

As time goes on, the snow left by the storm disappears as quickly as it came. Then comes a morning when all nature seems hushed, the least sound vibrating on the moisture burdened air.

The matted grass and shrubs of a departed year lie bleached and broken by the winter blasts, while lichen covered rocks peer through the tangled mass, and over head the grey sky lends its lonesome aspect to the scene.

Suddenly upon the impressive scene, breaks forth in song a sparrow, the harbinger of spring. Note after note rings out upon the quiet morning air, and *Melospiza fasciata* seems to say "cheer up, cheer up, there's better days to come," and all at once the world looks bright again. Gradually the number of song sparrows increases, until from all directions come to us their most melodious songs.

The juncos too are also seen, all busily scratching among the weeds, and when disturbed seek other ground, uttering as they fly their snappy notes.

The scoter ducks each day pass on their northern flight, while now and then a flock of geese are seen.

Cormorants in flocks are to be seen, which to the unpracticed eye might pass for geese. The difference can readily be told by a peculiar habit they have when flying, to stop at indefinite intervals all motions of their wings, glide for a moment, and again resume the former motions of their flight. No matter how many are in the flock, when one begins the movement, all usually do the same. Sometimes one half of the flock will alternate the movement, which gives a

very odd appearance to the flock.

The gannet has also taken its place among the flight, and one or more together may be seen, their long white narrow wings with primaries black at once attracting the attention of the observer. Usually, and especially in a storm, they fly at but a few feet or yards above the water, often having to quickly rise as do the eider ducks to avoid the crest of the foaming waves. Sometimes they mount in air and soar off quartering with the wind as do the gulls, or when they have discovered food, with awkward movements of their wings, rise high in air, and when the desired height was reached, with pinions closed and arrow speed descend, causing the water to seethe and foam as it passed from sight beneath the surface of the sea to catch the fish for which it plunged. I have heard fishermen who have been to the Gulf of St. Lawrence for fish say, that they had put a mackerel on a piece of board or plank, then with the current let it drift away from the vessel, when the gannets would plunge for the fish, breaking their necks when they struck the float upon which the food was laid.

April has almost come, the mellow note of the orchard bluebird is heard as it changes its perch from rock to shrub, while an investigation of the rattling among the weeds, reveals a number of fox sparrows searching for the seeds left there by a former year. Well hidden among the branches of the small fir trees, others pour forth their liquid notes of song, and from all directions on the ground white-throated sparrows fly up to see who the intruder may be. A turtle dove glides out from among a patch of elder bushes (*Sambucus canadensis*), or a brown creeper may be seen zigzagging up or down the trunk of some old tree, or searching the side of some lichen covered cliff.

April comes, and the number of birds increases. Hermit thrushes from out among the trees or shrubs start up to inquisitely watch you with their large round eyes, and a water thrush declares its species by the wagging of its tail.

Scores of golden-wing woodpeckers or flickers better known, are searching ant hills on the ground, while from some elevated perch a pigeon

hawk (*Falco columbarius*) scans the field with ever watchful eye. The pigeon hawks invariably accompany the flickers, but for what purpose I never could determine. I have watched them many times, when from their perch the time seemed right to them, dart at a flicker on the ground which is busily searching for its bill of fare. The flicker then would start for the nearest cover or higher ground, uttering as it flew a series of shrieks which always reminded me of a lady fleeing from a mouse, but I never saw a hawk injure the flicker in any way, or pilfer any food to reward it for its trouble.

Then come days of balmy silence, when "old Sol's" genial rays draws from the withered herbs and cones of trees frankincense sweet upon the morning air, and May has come again. Many of the sea birds have nearly finished their migratory flight, while other species of a later flight pass by each day in numbers. The island teems with bird life, especially those of nocturnal flight. Warblers are seeking from the opening buds of trees the insects, eggs and larvæ of their choice, while the yanking notes of the redbreasted nuthatch as it searches for its food, resounds among the trees.

Then come nights of darkness when few stars are to be seen, and only gentle zephyrs stir the smoky burdened air, and the beacon of the mariner sends forth its friendly rays, to pierce the realms of space. Faintly away off in the air, comes to the ear the call note of a bird growing louder and louder as the owner comes into the outer rays of light. Others follow slowly or in quick succession, until the lighted space above seems filled with meteoric forms. From all directions in the air may be heard the call notes of bewildered birds gyrating to and from the stronger rays of light. Many nights during spring and especially the fall migrations, such exhibitions of bird phenomena may be observed, sometimes represented by a single individual or again the numbers rapidly increasing, until hundreds representing many species fill the air.

Many times the scene can best be described by likening it to a snow storm as the large white flakes come floating down, or whirl in chaotic

numbers in the air. Some are struggling against the glass of the lantern that guards the light, while others striking the metal dome above, come tumbling dead or dying to the ground. Others hop along the walk around the light, while dead and dying birds gives a carnage aspect to the scene.

A pandemonium of bird life reigns which is seldom witnessed unless by those who spend some years around an off shore light station. Mornings following such nights as just described, hundreds of dead and injured birds may be found around the base of the lighthouse, while if time permitted, hundreds of others might be found among the grass some distance from the tower. Owing to that fact, it is almost impossible to make an estimate of the mortality caused by such a flight.

A most excellent description of such bird phenomena may be found in *Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, No. 1. Bird Migration. By William Brewster, observed at the lighthouse at Point Lepreaux, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, in 1885.

Although Mr. Brewster's observations differ some from mine, they were no doubt due to the difference in location, and the more frequent fogs upon that part of the coast.

Nights of strong north or northwest winds offer during the forenoon of the following day, another phase of bird vicissitudes. Soon after sunrise may be seen from that part of the island which fronts the sea, one or more small birds trying to reach a haven of rest, after a night or more of battle with adverse winds. Steadily they arrive from all directions over the sea, some seeming not to have minded the struggle of the night, while others by their strenuous efforts at once suggested the exhaustion they had been forced to bear. Some came on even flight to land, while others struggled on but a few feet above the water, straining every muscle as could be seen to reach the shore not far away. Now and then one would be seen, the primary feathers of its wings now and then clipping the water as it tried to sustain its painful flight. Slowly but surely its efforts became weaker and weaker, until its little muscles could do no more, and it fell into the dreaded sea close to the land it tried so hard to reach.

Many times I have seen them float for a moment upon the water with outstretched wings, then struggle into the air finally reaching the shore, where they dropped exhausted close by the surf line of the sea.

A very impressive tragedy in bird life was witnessed by myself on the morning of September 30th of the present year. About nine o'clock on the morning of the date just mentioned, while anchored off the southeastern shore of Seguin Island, waiting for scoter ducks to come to my decoys, my attention was attracted to a small bird that was flying in from sea. The wind was blowing hard from the northwest, while an old swell burst in foam upon the shore. As the bird came nearer, it proved to be a sparrow in a very exhausted condition, struggling to reach the land some hundred yards or more away. At times its wing tips touched the water as it painfully labored on, trying to avoid the inevitable that must come. A few more struggles and it lay upon the water with outstretched wings, fifty or more yards from the head of the cove towards which its flight had been directed, and less that distance to the shore upon the left. Half the distance to the left and off from shore, a partly submerged rock thrust its ragged surface through the surf. The bird rested but a moment on the water, then struggled on its wings and tried to reach the rock just mentioned. It had nearly reached the rock when its strength again gave out, and it again dropped into the water but a few yards from the goal it had tried so hard to reach. I then cast loose from my anchor, intending as I had done at times before, to take the bird into my boat until it had rested, and then let it fly to land. When within a few feet of the bird, what was my surprise to see it once more rise in air, and when about to land dropped into the crest of a wave that tumbled on the rock. When the sea had somewhat quieted down, I was again surprised to see the bird clinging to a small pinnacle of the rock, left bare by the receding surf. So dragged and hopeless was its appearance, that the old adage, "a drowning man will cling to a straw," came forcibly to my mind. While waiting for the sea to get more regular so that I could get to where the

bird was, another heavy wave came tumbling on the rock, causing the bird again to rise in air, and clearing the crest of its relentless foe, dropped exhausted on the near by shore. I was feeling much relieved that its life was saved, when another wave came tumbling on what had seemed a safe retreat. Once more it struggled on its wings, but another foaming outburst of the sea claimed the victim it had seemed so loth to spare.

Many such instances no doubt occur that help to swell the mortality of bird migration every year. The birds that I have noticed under such conditions, have invariably been warblers or sparrows. Not only do they have the wind and waves to contend with, but a flight of hawks always follow on behind. After a day of flight as last described, scores of birds fly up before you as you walk along, while among the scattering trees, hundreds of warblers welcome you with their happy notes. The last of May the flight is well along, and by the middle of June only a few pass on to remind us of the hoard that's gone.

The ground again is carpeted with green, while from every spot of soil the waving of new flora may be seen. The spotted sandpiper again twitters around its nest, the Savanna sparrow sings its struggling song, while the swallow glides in ever changing evolutions overhead. The few deciduous trees have spread their leaves, and plants put forth adornment for the summer. Birds' vespers of the morning have been exchanged for the duties entailed by incubation, and foraging for their young, and summer passes on and fall has come. The birds again return on flight, and the same vicissitudes of bird life may be observed as during spring.

Bird Notes.

BIRDS OF MAINE.

After careful deliberation it was deemed advisable to suggest the preparation of a work on the birds of this State which should be in effect a Manual of the Birds of Maine, giving their geographical distribution, range in Maine, descriptions of the birds themselves and their habits, nests and eggs. This matter was brought

before the Society by me at the recent meeting and such action as I desired was taken. This work will be not exceeding 350 pages of printed matter and will be as exhaustive and complete as it is possible within this limit of space, scientifically accurate, and at the same time as interesting as possible. With this book in hand it is hoped that a person of average ability will be able to identify any bird they may find in Maine, and ascertain where its home is; how it builds its nest and what its eggs are like; what it eats, etc.

The preparation of this work will require some time and the financing of its publication is also a matter of some difficulty. We can only say that the book will be published as soon as possible and at a cost which will be within the reach of all.

Mr. A. H. Norton of Westbrook will act jointly with the undersigned in the preparation of this work and also a third party who has not yet been selected.

Very respectfully,
O. W. KNIGHT.

THE HOODED WARBLER IN MAINE.

Through Mr. W. H. Brownson of Portland we have the announced record of a Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia mitrata*, having at last been taken within the borders of Maine. He writes the JOURNAL as follows: "On Saturday, Sept. 10, 1904, Mr. Samuel T. Dana of Portland informed me that he had seen a Hooded Warbler at Falmouth. I was of course somewhat doubtful of the accuracy of his observation and recommended that he make an effort to secure the bird if he should again see it. Mr. Dana had it in his possession the next day and the specimen has been carefully preserved and will be cheerfully shown at any time." If the bird is as described it is the first authentic instance of its capture within our state and the report will be of great interest to all our Maine Ornithologists.—ED.

A MARBLED GODWIT.

John A. Lord of Portland reports having taken a Great Marbled Godwit, *Limosa fedoa* (Linn.), at Scarborough, Maine, Aug. 16, 1904, a decidedly rare take.

The Migration Reports, 1902.

Reports of the spring migration should have the names of all birds seen from Jan. 1 to June 30 inclusive, and should be sent to me in July.

Reports of the fall migration should have the names of all birds seen from July 1 to Dec. 1 inclusive and should be sent to me in January.

Write *resident* after the names of birds that were resident during the year for which you make your report. Don't forget to give the dates when winter residents and migrants were last seen.

Every bird student in Maine whether a member of the Maine Ornithological Society or not, is invited to send in migration reports. I will be

glad to send blank schedules at any time to all who wish them.

All those who have migration lists, please send them to me as soon as convenient.

The reports for the spring migration of 1902 were made by:

W. H. Brownson, Portland, Cumberland County.

Arthur H. Norton, Westbrook, Cumberland County.

Everett E. Johnson, Lewiston, Androscoggin County.

Mabel P. Ridley, Castine, Hancock County.

Guy H. Briggs, Livermore, Androscoggin County.

J. Merton Swain, Waterville, Kennebec County.

Dana W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County.

Mr. Johnson made a report of Lewiston and vicinity and a partial report of East Hebron. The dates of those seen in East Hebron are marked with an H.

In Mr. Swain's report the Short-billed Marsh Wren and Yellow-rail were seen at Orono, the Towhee at Portland, and the greater Yellow-legs at Unity. The other birds were seen in Waterville and vicinity.

The dates when winter birds were last seen are marked with an asterisk.

DANA SWEET,

R. F. D. 2. Phillips, Maine.

| | Portland. | Westbrook. | Lewiston. | Castine. | Livermore. | Waterville. | Avon. | Bingham. |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Loon, | May 16, | | | | May 2, | May 7, | | |
| American Herring Gull, | | | April 5, | | | | | |
| American Merganser, | | March 26, | April 24, | | | | | |
| Black Duck, | | | | | | | | |
| Blue-winged Teal, | | | | | | March 27, | | Sept. 13. |
| American Golden-eye Duck, | | | | | | | | |
| Canada Goose, | | | | | | March 27, | | |
| American Bittern, | | March 13, | April 25, | | March 23, | March 5, | | |
| Great Blue Heron, | | April 14, | May 11, | | | April 24, | Sept. 8, | |
| Yellow Rail, | | | April 24, | | | April 16, | | |
| American Woodcock, | | | March 25, | | | May 30, | | |
| Wilson's Snipe, | | April 19, | | | | March 28, | | |
| Greater Yellow-legs, | | | | | | May 7, | May 18, | |
| Solitary Sandpiper, | | May 17, | | | | May 7, | | |
| Bartramian Sandpiper, | | May 5, | | | May 5, | May 14, | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper, | | May 3, | | | | May 7, | May 8, | |
| Marsh Hawk, | April 6, | March 27, | April 24, | | | April 16, | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk, | April 27, | May 6, | | | | April 17, | | |

| Portland. | Westbrook. | Lewiston. | Castine. | Livermore. | Waterville. | Avon. | Bingham. |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| Cooper's Hawk,..... | May 18, | Jan. 16, | | | April 24, | | |
| American Goshawk,..... | | Jan. 12, | | | | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk,..... | | Oct. 15, | | | April 22, | | Oct. 14, |
| Red-shouldered Hawk,..... | March 22, | March 4, | | March 7, | March 7, | | |
| Broad-winged Hawk,..... | | Sept. 8, | | | April 17, | | |
| American Rough-legged Hawk, | | | | | | Nov. 27, | |
| Bald Eagle,..... | | April 24, | | | | | |
| Pigeon Hawk,..... | | | | | April 23, | | |
| Sparrow Hawk,..... | March 27, | April 27, | | | May 27, | May 8, | |
| Fish Hawk,..... | April 23, | April 24, | | | April 24, | Oct. 7, | |
| Barred Owl,..... | | | | | | | |
| Richardson's Owl,..... | | Nov. 30, | | | | | |
| Great Horned Owl,..... | | Oct. 13, | | | | | |
| American Hawk Owl,..... | | | | | | | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo,..... | | June 5, | | | | July 13, | |
| Belted Kingfisher,..... | | April 24, | | May 24, | May 20, | May 2, | |
| Downy Woodpecker,..... | April 29, | | Resident. | April 28, | April 16, | | |
| Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, | | | | | | Nov. 21, | |
| Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,..... | May 4, | Oct. 5, | April 29, | March 11, | May 7, | April 21, | |
| Golden-winged Woodpecker,..... | April 13, | April 6, | | May 8, | April 23, | May 7, | |
| Whip-poor-will,..... | | April 28, | | | May 16, | May 26, | |
| Nighthawk,..... | | May 22, | | | May 26, | May 26, | |
| Chimney Swift,..... | May 21, | May 3, | | May 15, | May 7, | May 14, | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird,..... | May 8, | May 2, | May 17, | | May 7, | May 19, | |
| Kingbird,..... | May 14, | May 18, | May 14, | May 9, | May 12, | May 8, | |
| Crested Flycatcher,..... | | May 25, | May 24, | May 12, | May 20, | May 8, | |
| Phoebe,..... | April 17, | March 30, | May 25, | April 1, | April 2, | April 4, | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher,..... | June 6, | | | | June 12, | | |
| Wood Pewee,..... | June 1, | May 25, | | | June 27, | May 23, | |
| Alder Flycatcher,..... | | June 20, | | | May 27, | | |
| Least Flycatcher,..... | May 18, | April 27, | | | May 20, | May 8, | |
| Horned Lark,..... | | | May 11, | April 21, | April 29, | | |
| Blue Jay,..... | May 14, | | | | March 4, | | |
| Canada Jay,..... | | | | | | | |
| American Crow,..... | | Jan. 5, | | Feb. 26, | Feb. 20, | | |
| Bobolink,..... | May 18, | May 11, | May 17, | May 16, | May 13, | May 18, | |
| Cowbird,..... | | March 23, | | | March 22, | April 7, | |
| Red-winged Blackbird,..... | March 23, | March 30, | | March 13, | April 2, | | |
| Meadow Lark,..... | | | | | April 22, | | |
| Baltimore Oriole,..... | | May 11, | June 1, | May 16, | May 12, | May 12, | |
| Rusty Blackbird,..... | March 19, | March 15, | | | April 2, | April 2, | |

| | Portland. | Westbrook. | Lewiston. | Castine. | Livermore. | Waterville. | Avon. | Bingham. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Bronzed Blackbird, | April 11, | | Oct. 15, | April 25, | May 10, | March 27, | | |
| Pine Grosbeak, | | | | | | | | |
| Purple Finch, | April 11, | May 2, | April 24, | April 24, | | April 12, | April 29, | Oct. 29. |
| American Crossbill, | May 15, | | | March 26, | | | | |
| White-winged Crossbill, | | | | May 3, | | | | |
| Redpoll, | | | Jan. 11, | | | | | |
| American Goldfinch, | | April 19, | Jan. 11, | April 4, | | | | |
| Pine Siskin, | | | March 4, | Resident, | | | Dec. 14, | |
| Snow Bunting, | | | Nov. 4, | | | | April 29, | |
| Vesper Sparrow, | | April 14, | April 20, | April 24, | April 19, | April 9, | | Oct. 18. |
| Savanna Sparrow, | | April 18, | April 20, | April 24, | May 10, | April 16, | | |
| White-crowned Sparrow, | May 11, | May 15, | April 20, | May 21, | | May 7, | | |
| White-throated Sparrow, | May 2, | | March 30, | April 29, | April 26, | April 27, | | |
| Tree Sparrow, | March 23, | | Oct. 23, | April 6, | | | { May 19, | |
| Chipping Sparrow, | April 24, | | April 20, | | April 21, | April 17, | { Oct. 11, | Sept. 13. |
| Field Sparrow, | April 29, | | | | | April 27, | March 30, | Oct. 25. |
| Slate-colored Junco, | March 14, | March 15, | { March 15, | March 22, | | April 1, | April 18, | |
| | | | { Oct. 3, | | | | | |
| Song Sparrow, | March 13, | March 13, | March 15, | March 22, | March 7, | March 8, | | |
| Swamp Sparrow, | | | | | | April 16, | | |
| Fox Sparrow, | March 27, | March 27, | Nov. 6, | | | April 2, | Oct. 12, | |
| Towhee, | March 17, | March 17, | | | | May 23, | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak, | May 22, | | May 4, | | May 18, | May 16, | May 9, | |
| Indigo Bunting, | May 18, | May 22, | May 28, | | | May 20, | May 22, | |
| Scarlet Tanager, | | | | May 22, | May 13, | | May 18, | |
| Purple Martin, | | | | | | April 22, | | |
| Cliff Swallow, | May 12, | May 11, | | | | May 5, | May 14, | |
| Barn Swallow, | May 4, | May 1, | | May 14, | April 22, | April 29, | April 29, | |
| Tree Swallow, | April 18, | April 4, | April 24, | April 24, | April 16, | April 16, | April 20, | |
| Bank Swallow, | | May 26, | May 11, | | | May 20, | May 19, | |
| Cedar Waxwing, | April 6, | | May 25, | May 25, | May 23, | | May 24, | |
| Northern Shrike, | | | Nov. 13, | | | | | Oct. 20. |
| Loggerhead Shrike, | | April 6, | March 30, | | | April 2, | April 18, | |
| Red-eyed Vireo, | May 23, | | June 6, | June 1, | May 18, | May 7, | | |
| Warbling Vireo, | | May 22, | | May 18, | | May 5, | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo, | | May 15, | | | | | | |
| Blue-headed Vireo, | | | | | | | | |
| Black and White Warbler, | May 11, | May 6, | | May 12, | May 10, | May 20, | May 8, | Sept. 15. |
| Nashville Warbler, | May 9, | May 7, | May 25, | | May 18, | May 1, | May 8, | |
| Tennessee Warbler, | | May 30, | | | | May 30, | | |

| Portland. | Westbrook. | Lewiston. | Castine. | Livmore. | Waterville. | Avon. | Bingham. |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Northern Parula Warbler,..... | May 16, | May 13, | May 11, | May 18, | May 14, | May 8, | |
| Yellow Warbler,..... | May 13, | May 6, | May 11, | May 14, | May 7, | May 17, | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler,..... | May 17, | | | May 18, | May 7, | May 8, | |
| Myrtle Warbler,..... | May 13, | May 18, | April 28, | May 10, | April 24, | May 8, | |
| Magnolia Warbler,..... | May 17, | May 13, | May 18, | May 10, | May 7, | May 11, | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler,..... | May 17, | May 13, | May 18, | May 18, | May 8, | May 14, | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler,..... | | | May 23, | May 23, | May 21, | May 19, | |
| Black-poll Warbler,..... | May 15, | May 23, | | | May 22, | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler,..... | May 23, | May 13, | | | May 20, | May 8, | Sept. 12. |
| Black-throated Green Warbler,..... | May 6, | May 6, | May 11, | May 9, | May 7, | May 8, | |
| Pine Warbler,..... | April 29, | May 16, | April 20, | April 19, | April 27, | | |
| Yellow Palm Warbler,..... | April 16, | April 22, | { April 30, Oct. 5, | April 24, | April 24, | | |
| Oven-bird,..... | May 12, | May 13, | May 18, | May 16, | May 16, | May 8, | |
| Water-thrush,..... | May 18, | | | | May 7, | | |
| Mourning Warbler,..... | | | | | May 21, | May 24, | |
| Maryland Yellowthroat,..... | May 11, | May 13, | May 18, | May 17, | May 7, | May 14, | Sept. 14, |
| Yellow-breasted Chat,..... | June 10, | | | | | | |
| Wilson's Warbler,..... | May 13, | May 13, | | | May 30, | May 21, | |
| Canadian Warbler,..... | May 21, | | May 4, | May 9, | May 7, | May 12, | |
| American Redstart,..... | May 16, | | | May 14, | May 14, | May 12, | |
| American Pipit,..... | | | | | | May 14, | |
| Catbird,..... | May 18, | | May 11, | May 17, | May 16, | May 14, | |
| Brown Thrasher,..... | | | May 4, | May 14, | May 20, | June 7, | Sept. 13, |
| Winter Wren,..... | | | Oct. 1, | | | April 19, | |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren,..... | | | | | May 30, | | |
| Brown Creeper,..... | | | | | | | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch,..... | April 13, | | | | | | |
| Red breasted Nuthatch,..... | | | | March 22, | | | Sept. 11. |
| Black-capped Chickadee,..... | | | | Resident, | | | Sept. 13. |
| Golden-crowned Knight,..... | | | | | | | |
| Ruby-crowned Knight,..... | | | | | | | Sept. 22. |
| Veery Thrush,..... | May 15, | May 20, | Sept. 27, | April 19, | May 1, | April 24, | |
| Olive-backed Thrush,..... | May 20, | | May 18, | | May 6, | April 24, | |
| Hermit Thrush,..... | April 29, | | April 6, | April 19, | April 20, | May 18, | |
| American Robin,..... | | March 12, | March 15, | March 20, | March 1, | April 20, | |
| Bluebird,..... | | March 12, | March 15, | April 5, | Feb. 28, | March 22, | |

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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 Dec. '04.

THE WARBLING VIREO'S WILD-
WOOD HOME.

THE HANGBIRD'S NEST.

Secluded within the shadowy wood,
 Amid the flowers, the ferns, the leafy soil,
 The silvery whispering maple stood,
 Around its trunk, a wild vine's creepers coil
 From swaying limb, the hangbird's nest was
 hung,
 To topmost bough the cradle was safely
 twined.
 Here throughout June days the noted vireos
 sung,
 Nor were their songs to nesting tree con-
 fined.
 But never far, I heard their warbling strain,
 Inspiring gladness swelled through liquid
 note,
 A subtle lisp of a sweet refrain,
 'Till raptured zephyrs bore it on to float
 Through leafy wood, 'till lost the precious
 sound.
 'Twas heard no more, 'till eager sylphids
 found
 Again limpid notes to waft the glen around.
 ALICE B. WAITE.
 South Lyme, Conn.



Reduced line cut of ERNEST THOMPSON SETON'S painting of the Northern Shrike Presented to every Subscriber to Vol. VII. 1905 of BIRD LORE. The original is nearly life-size.

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All these will go in time to be received with your greetings, on Christmas day and BIRD-LORE will follow as published, throughout the year. A valuable present easily made.

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Publishers For The Audubon Societies.

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This Magazine is also the official organ of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America, an organization devoted to the protection of native plants.

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BULLETIN OF THE Michigan Ornithological Club

An Illustrated Quarterly Devoted to the
Ornithology of the Great
Lake Region.

A. W. BLAIN JR., Editor.

J. CLAIRE WOOD, } Associate
ADOLPHE B. COVERT, } Editors.

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